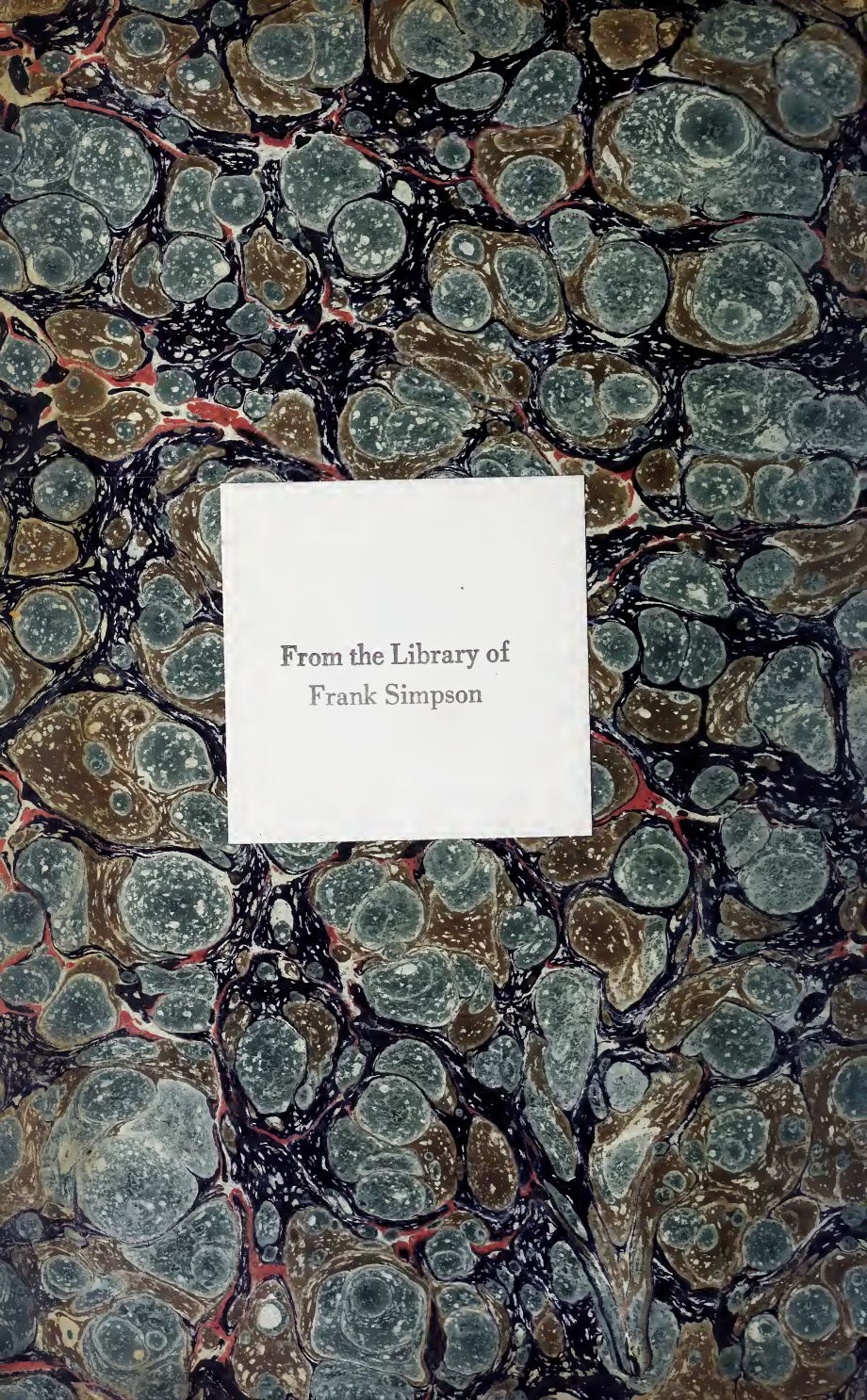
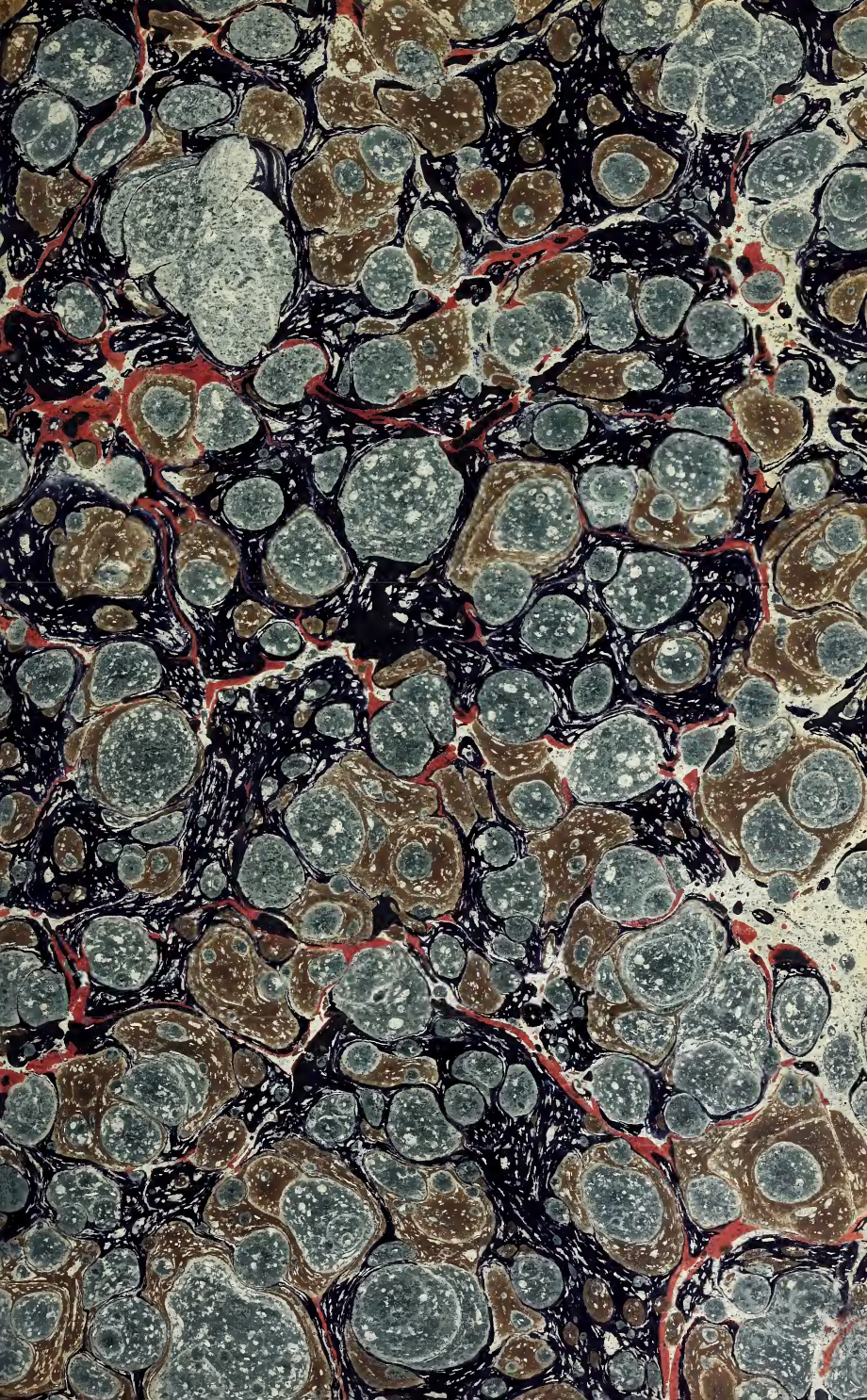




The background of the image is a traditional marbled paper pattern. It features large, irregular, cell-like shapes in shades of teal, green, and brown, separated by dark, swirling lines of black and red. The overall effect is a complex, organic texture. In the center of the image is a plain white rectangular label.

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THE
Beauties
of
ENGLAND AND WALES ;
OR
DELINEATIONS
TOPOGRAPHICAL, HISTORICAL
and
DESCRIPTIVE.
Vol. XIII. Part I.



Crescent, Bath.

THE
BEAUTIES
OF
England and Wales:
OR,
ORIGINAL DELINEATIONS,
TOPOGRAPHICAL, HISTORICAL, AND DESCRIPTIVE,
OF
EACH COUNTY.

EMBELLISHED WITH ENGRAVINGS.

BY THE
REV. J. NIGHTINGALE.

VOL. XIII.—PART I.

Incorrect pedigrees, futile etymologies, verbose disquisitions, crowds of epitaphs, lists of landholders, and such farrago, thrown together without method, unanimated by reflections, and delivered in the most uncouth and horrid style, make the bulk of our county histories. Gough.

LONDON:

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1813.

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THE
BRITISH
IN
ENGLAND AND WALES
ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS
OF THE
REIGN OF
HIS MAJESTY
KING GEORGE THE THIRD
FROM 1760 TO 1800
IN
FIVE VOLUMES
VOLUME THE FIRST
1760-1769
BY
JAMES O. BROWN
OF THE
BRITISH MUSEUM
LONDON
PRINTED BY
JOHN JOHNSON, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD
1800

TO
HIS GRACE,
THE MOST HIGH, MIGHTY, AND MOST NOBLE PRINCE,
CHARLES HOWARD,
DUKE OF NORFOLK,
EARL MARSHAL, AND HEREDITARY EARL MARSHAL OF ENGLAND,
EARL OF ARUNDEL, SURRY, NORFOLK;
Baron of Mowbray, Howard, Segrave, Brewese of Gower, in Caermarthenshire,
Fitz-Alan, Waren, Clun, Oswaldestre, Maltravers, Greystock, Furnival,
Verdon, Lovetot, Strange of Blackmere;
PREMIER DUKE, EARL, AND BARON OF ENGLAND,
NEXT THE BLOOD ROYAL;
AND CHIEF OF THE ILLUSTRIOUS FAMILY OF THE HOWARDS,
A PEER OF THE REALM,
WHO MAINTAINS THE TRUE DIGNITY OF ITS ANCIENT NOBILITY,
BY PROTECTING THE RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES
OF THE PEOPLE,
BY ADVOCATING THE CAUSE OF UNIVERSAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM,
AND BY ENCOURAGING LITERATURE AND THE USEFUL ARTS,
THIS VOLUME,
IS MOST RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED
BY HIS GRACE'S VERY OBEDIENT
AND MOST HUMBLE SERVANT,

J. NIGHTINGALE.

*Barbican,
July 5th, 1813.*

PREFACE.

In closing this volume, it is necessary I should state that MR. RYLANCE, with whose name the subscribers have already been made acquainted, extended his labours to the end of the SHROPSHIRE account only. I engaged that Gentleman to make an actual survey of this interesting county; and from the fruit of my friend's exertions, aided by the obliging communications of several Gentlemen resident in SHREWSBURY and other places, and by availing myself of the little assistance, which printed materials have furnished, I drew up the present account. I am as conscious, as any native of the place can be, that I have fallen far short of what is required, in delineating so charming a district as the county of Salop. Under this consciousness, I have anticipated objections, and prepared my mind for the criticisms of the most fastidious. It should, however, be remembered, that this sketch, meagre and imperfect as it is, is the only attempt that has hitherto been made to describe this county. The "Account of Shrewsbury," by the Rev. HUGH OWEN, is the only book of the least consequence deserving notice, if, indeed, we except the excellent Agricultural Survey by the Rev. ARCHDEACON PLYMLEY, (now Corbet). Phillips's History of Shrewsbury is entirely superseded by Mr. Owen's book.

The

The county of SOMERSET, has been more successful. It is the great mart of fashion—the splendid summer resort of the gay and the rich, and the constant residence of a very large portion of our English nobility and gentry. And yet even this county did not find an adequate historian before the year 1791, when the REV. JOHN COLLINSON published his very excellent History. Numerous, however, have been the books and pamphlets published in illustration of detached parts of this county; particularly of the cities of *Bath* and *Bristol*. These various stores of information left but little to be done in addition to that which they contain. I have, however, availed myself of the local knowledge of several intelligent gentlemen on the spot: my greatest obstacle arising more from a difficulty of leaving out what could be spared, without manifest injury to my work, than from any want of materials for a much more extended survey than the limits of my plan would admit. Yet could I have foreseen certain events connected with this extensive publication, my delineations of Somersetshire had certainly assumed a somewhat different feature. As far as I have been permitted in regard to extent, I trust the descriptions are faithful and just.

Of the county of STAFFORD, I have not much to observe. PLOT's Natural History, and SHAW's General History, furnish much valuable information; but the one is too full of extraordinary relations, anecdotes, and local allusions of a trifling nature; and the other too much loaded with pedigrees and genealogies, besides that it has not yet been completed, to answer the entire purposes of my own labours. Most of the places I have myself visited; particularly of those reserved for the unpublished portions of Mr. Shaw's History. An alteration in the
original

original plan of this portion of the volume, resolved upon by the proprietors of the work, has compelled me, in a very few instances, to retrace my ground and, in consequence, also, I have not been able to pay that attention to some places mentioned in the early part of my delineations which their importance demanded. I have however, done my best; and if all has not been done which some may expect, it has not been owing, either to want of interest in my subject, or of zeal and industry in its prosecution.

A mind weighed down with numerous domestic afflictions; and labouring, at the same time, under the most poignant, and the most undeserved injustice and oppression, is but ill calculated for those exertions which are ever needful to the attainment and security of literary reputation. Such has been the case with the author of the following sheets; and though he now feels himself rising above the tremendous wreck, the effects of those sorrows and those oppressions will ever remain visible on the labours accomplished during the conflict. This consideration, though it will not remove, or even excuse, palpable errors, will at least soften the severity of criticism; while those partial friends, who may be desirous of approving, will reflect how much more the author would have merited their approbation had he been free to have exerted himself to the best possible advantage.

The real *Beauties* of a country are those of an intellectual nature. This is a sentiment more than once expressed in these volumes; and, under the conviction of its justness, I have given a scope to subjects of Biography and History, which, under a different persuasion, I might have employed in picturesque declamation, or flights of colouring, which many parts of the counties herein described might perhaps have fairly warranted me

in doing : for we have past over no ordinary or common beauties of nature.

Nothing now remains but to make my grateful acknowledgements to such among my numerous correspondents and kind contributors who have not prevented me, as some have done, by an ill-judged modesty, from giving publicity to their names. To the REV. HUGH OWEN, M. A. F. S. A. I am particularly indebted for many valuable descriptions and remarks relative to our early ecclesiastical architecture. To ARTHUR AIKIN, Esq. for some valuable communications and corrections, relative to the mineralogy of Shropshire. To Mr. D. PARKES, of Shrewsbury, for several useful hints, and for the very liberal loan of several excellent original drawings. To J. F. M. DOVASTON, of West Felton, Esq. I would express myself in terms better able to convey my high sense of his politeness, and of the kindness and assistance rendered to my friend, during his late visit to that part of Salop, had I the same facility of communicating my thoughts with which nature has so liberally endued that ingenious and most excellent gentleman. To M. WOOD, of Marsh Hall, Esq. to JOHN HULME, M. D. of Ball Haye, Esq. to WILLIAM SNEYD, of Ashcombe House, Esq. to his lordship, the Right Rev. DR. JOHN MILNER, Vicar Apostolic of the Midland District, to the venerable and Rev. JOSHUA TOULMIN, D. D. and to numerous other Gentlemen, resident in the counties herein delineated, for many valuable hints and communications, I have great pleasure in making my most sincere and grateful acknowledgements, as also to several anonymous correspondents, some of whose letters have contained information of considerable importance.

London,
July 5th, 1813.

THE
BEAUTIES
OF
England and Wales.

SHROPSHIRE.

OF the Beauties of England, perhaps no county contains a more interesting share than the one now under consideration. It possesses every variety of natural charm; the bold and lofty mountain; the woody and secluded valley; the fertile and widely-cultured plain; the majestic river, and the sequestered lake. It is no less rich in those remains of ancient times, which awaken a thousand enthusiastic reflections, by engaging us in the contemplation of the memorable events of our history. Besides these claims to the attention of the topographer and the antiquary, it has others of a nature more substantial, though less brilliant, which equally engage the notice of the statistical enquirer: The rich stores of iron, lead, coal, and stone; the increasing manufactures, and the agricultural improvements of this flourishing district, have raised it highly in the scale of national importance, while its inland navigation has rendered it an emporium of the trade between England and Wales, and a grand centre of connection to the inland counties of the kingdom.

It is, therefore, a matter of surprise and regret, that so interesting a portion of British topography should never have been embodied in a regular form. The materials for the history of

this county are yet to be redeemed from the scattered labours of many local and neglected guides; from the miscellaneous and desultory researches of the topographers of Wales, and the border counties; and from a few MS. collections, some of which have been partly exhausted by the extracts of Pennant, and other tourists; while others are considered so valuable by their possessors, that they have hitherto been totally withheld from the inquiries of the curious.

The topographical, historical, and descriptive delineation of a county under these circumstances, appears at once an inviting and a discouraging task—inviting from the variety of matter with which it abounds, and discouraging from the want of an authentic county history, which might greatly facilitate our endeavours to treat such a subject as it deserves. In entering on the performance of this task, our diffidence is not a little increased by a consideration of the limits allotted to this county in the general plan of the work; on which circumstance we would ground an apology to those persons, who, being concerned in the local interests of the county, may perhaps look for a more detailed and elaborate description than we are permitted to supply.

We shall uniformly adhere to the principle laid down and acted upon by our predecessors in this undertaking, of faithfully acknowledging our authorities,* and of illustrating them by such original information as we have had it in our power to procure.

At the time of the Roman invasion, the district of Britain which now constitutes this county, was inhabited by the Cornavii and the Ordovices; the territory they respectively occupied being divided by the Severn. Of the Cornavii little at present is known; the Ordovices, a warlike and enterprising people, joined with the Silures under the renowned British king Caractacus, in defending their country against its invaders. The memory of that gallant chief is preserved by local tradition,

and

* See Introductory Observations to Vol. IX. of the Beauties of England and Wales, p. v.

and his name has been transferred to two military posts in the county, on which the remains of his encampments are still to be traced. Various conjectures have been formed respecting the scene of his last battle with Ostorius Scapula; the antiquaries of Salop and Hereford contend for the topography of the field; and, as there are no records existing to particularize and confirm the general description of Tacitus, the dispute must remain for ever undecided.* That Caractacus, for a considerable period, successfully resisted the progress of the Roman conquerors in the hilly country, now forming part of Shropshire, is manifest from the united testimony of history and tradition; and this evidence seems to justify the supposition, that he there terminated his military career. Gough, the learned editor of Camden, whose authority as an antiquarian is universally respected, considers the account of the Roman historian as particularly referring to a hill about two miles south of Clun, called *Caer Caradoc*, or the *Gaer*, near the junction of the rivers Clun and Temd, among several dangerous fords. On the point of this hill, which is accessible only one way, is a very large camp, defended on the north side by deep double ditches dug in the solid rock; almost impregnable on the east and south; and fortified by ramparts of stone. The description of Tacitus, observes Mr. Gough, places this camp before our eyes. † “*Montibus arduis, et si qua clementer accedi poterat in modum valli saxa præstruit; et præfluebat amnis vado incerto, catervaque armatorum pro munimentis constiterant.*” ‡

This battle, and the subsequent fate of Caractacus, are sufficiently

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ciently

* See *Beauties of England and Wales*, Vol. VI. p. 401, also Vol. XI. p. 2.

† Ann. XII. 33.

‡ A gentleman of Shrewsbury, who has personally inspected all the military antiquities of his native county, and of those which border upon it, is inclined to suppose, that the only place which can answer the description of Tacitus, is the *Breiddenn Hill* in *Montgomeryshire*. The vestiges of a British encampment on its summit, and the course of the river *Severn* near its base, are the circumstances on which he grounds his hypothesis.

ciently interesting to the British reader to authorize the introduction, in this place, of the detailed account, as given by Tacitus.

“ P. Ostorius, the proprætor, found things in great disorder in Britain; the enemy having overrun the lands of our allies with less restraint, as they did not suppose the new general would march against them with an army to which he was a stranger, and at the beginning of winter. But he, convinced that fear or confidence of an enemy depend on the first events, marched against them with such troops as were at hand, and cutting to pieces all who opposed him, pursued the rest, whom he had dispersed, to prevent their collecting themselves again. Unwilling to trust to a dangerous and uncertain peace, which would allow new rest to the general or the army, he prepared to disarm the nations whom there was reason to suspect, and to draw a line of camps round them, between the rivers Antona [Avon] and Severn. This step was first opposed by the Iceni, a powerful nation, unbroken by the war, having before voluntarily embraced our alliance. By their advice, the neighbouring nations appointed a place for battle, enclosed by a rude rampart of earth, with a narrow entrance, inaccessible to horsemen. These works the Roman general, though he had only the auxiliary troops of the allies, without the strength of the legions, attempted to force; and disposing his cohorts, drew up likewise some troops of horse before the rampart: upon a signal given, they broke down the work, and fell upon the enemy, entangled in their own inclosures. A consciousness of their revolt, and despair of escaping, animated them to many gallant actions. In this battle, M. Ostorius, son of the lieutenant, gained the honour of having saved the life of a citizen.

“ The defeat of the Iceni awed those nations who fluctuated between peace and war, and the army advanced against the Cangi, whose territories they ravaged, carrying off much booty, the enemy not daring to face them, and if they fell upon the rear by surprise, paying dear for it. The army was now got pretty near
the

the sea that looks toward the island of Ireland, when disorders arising among the Brigantes, obliged the general to return, he being constantly attentive not to make new conquests, till the former advantages were secured. The Brigantes, after the slaughter of a few who had taken up arms, returned to their obedience, and obtained forgiveness. But neither severity nor milder measures had any effect on the Silures, who continued in arms, and required the force of legions to reduce them. The sooner to accomplish this, a colony was planted at Camaludonum [Colchester] consisting of a numerous body of veterans, who took possession of the conquered lands, ready to assist their countrymen against any revolt, and bring their allies to a conformity to our laws. Some cities were also given to king Cogidunus, agreeably to that ancient usage of the Roman people, to make even kings their instruments to enslave mankind.

“ The army next marched against the Silures, who, besides their own native ferocity, placed great hopes in the valour of Caractacus, whom the many changes and prosperous turns of fortune, had advanced to a pre-eminence over the rest of the British leaders. He, artfully availing himself of his knowledge of the country, countervailing his inferiority in numbers, transferred the war into the country of the Ordovices, and being joined by those who mistrusted the peace subsisting between us, put matters upon a decisive issue, posting himself on a spot, the approaches and retreats to and from which were as advantageous to his party, as they were perplexing to us. He then threw up on the more accessible parts of the highest hills, a kind of rampart of stone, below, and in front of which, was a river difficult to ford, and on the works he placed the troops of soldiers.* The respective leaders also went round to animate and inspirit them, lessening their fears, magnifying their hopes, and urging every encouragement usual on these occasions. Caractacus, running from one to another, bade them consider,

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that

* *Catervæque majorum.* Lipsius reads *nationum*.

that the work of that day would be the beginning of new liberty, or eternal slavery. He set before them the example of their ancestors, who had driven Cæsar the dictator out of Britain, and by whose valour they had been hitherto preserved from axes and tributes, and their wives and children from dishonour. The people received these animating harangues with loud acclamations, engaging themselves by the most solemn rites, according to the religion of their country, never to yield to weapons or wounds. Their resolution astonished the Roman general; and the river in the way, together with the ramparts and the steeps, presented to the assailants a formidable and resolute appearance. But the soldiers were clamorous for the charge, crying, that valour could bear down all opposition; and the inferior officers inspiring the same sentiments, gave new courage to the troops. Ostorius, after reconnoitering the ground, to see which part was impenetrable, and which accessible, led on the eager soldiers, and with much difficulty crossed the river. When they came to the rampart, while they only threw their darts at a distance, our people suffered most, and numbers were slain; but closing their ranks, and placing their shields over them, they presently tore down the rough irregular piles of stones, and coming to close quarters, obliged the barbarians to retire to the tops of the hills. Thither also both the light and heavy armed soldiers followed them, the former attacking them with their spears, the latter in a body, till the Britons, who had no armour or helmets to shelter them, were thrown into confusion; and if they made any resistance to the auxiliaries, they were cut to pieces by the swords and spears of the legionaries, against whom, when they turned, they were destroyed by the broad swords and javelins of the auxiliaries. This was an illustrious victory. The wife and daughter of Caractacus were taken, and his brother submitted to the conqueror. Caractacus himself, by the common insecurity of adversity, throwing himself upon the protection of Cartismandua, queen of the Brigantes, was put in irons, and
given

given up to the conquerors, nine years after the war first broke out in Britain. His fame, which had reached the islands, and the neighbouring provinces, and even Italy, made people eager to see what kind of a man it was who had so long set our power at defiance. Nor was the name of Caractacus inconsiderable at Rome. And the Emperor, in advancing his own glory, added to that of the conquered Prince. The people were assembled as to some great sight. The prætorian cohorts were under arms in the field before the camp. First came the King's dependants and retinue, and the trappings and collars, and the trophies which he had won in foreign wars; next, his brothers, his wife, and daughter, and last himself was presented to the public view. The rest expressed their fears in unworthy supplications. Caractacus, neither by his looks nor language pleaded pity; and when he came before the Emperor's seat expressed himself in these terms:

“ ‘ Had I made that prudent use of my prosperity which my rank and fortune enabled me to do, I had come hither, rather as a friend, than as a prisoner. Nor would you have disdained the alliance of one descended from illustrious ancestors, and sovereign over many nations. My present condition, disgraceful as it is to myself, reflects glory on you. Possessed as I once was of horses, men, arms, and wealth, what wonder if I parted from them with reluctance! For since universal empire is your object, we must all be slaves.* Had I been given up at the first, neither my fortune, nor your glory, would have been set in a distinguished point of view, and my punishment would have sunk all remembrance of me. In giving me my life, you make me an eternal monument of your clemency.’ ”

“ The Emperor immediately pardoned Caractacus, his wife, and brothers. As soon as their chains were taken off, they proceeded to pay their respects, in the same terms as before, to the Emperor, to Agrippina, who sat on a raised seat not far
A 4 off.

* NON, si vos omnibus imperitare vultis, sequitur, ut omnes servitutem accipiant. The learned editor does not appear to have rendered this passage with his usual accuracy.

off. A woman sitting at the head of the Roman army, among the Roman ensigns, and seeming to command them, was a new sight, and very foreign to the manners of our ancestors. But she assumed a share in the government as obtained by her family. The Senate was afterwards assembled, and many congratulatory speeches were made on the taking of Caractacus. It seemed as illustrious a sight as when Scipio shewed Syphax, Paulus, Perses, other generals, conquered kings, to the Roman people; and the ensigns of a triumph were decreed to Ostorius." *

While Britain remained subject to the Romans, this county formed part of the province of Flavia Cæsariensis: the principal stations in Antonine's Itinerary are Uriconium, or Viroconium, now Wroxeter, Mediolanum, near Drayton, and Rutunium near Wem. Antiquaries differ respecting the position of the two last, but with regard to the former there is little doubt that it was a chief city of the Cornavii founded and fortified by the Romans. The Watling Street or Roman Highway enters the county on the east between Crackley Bank and Weston, and passes through it in a bending line to Leintwardine in Herefordshire on the southern borders. These and similar vestiges of the first conquerors of Britain remain to attest the dominion which they held over its original inhabitants, but are not illustrated by any historical records relating to that early period. When the Roman empire declined, and the country became a prey to more barbarous invaders, this portion of it was the theatre of long and sanguinary contests between the Britons and the Saxons, being held by the former as part of the kingdom of Powisland, of which Pengwerne, now Shrewsbury, was the capital. After a violent contest of near a hundred and fifty years, the Heptarchy being established, the county again changed its masters, and was incorporated with Mercia, the largest, if not the most powerful of the seven kingdoms. The British Princes long disputed these favourite possessions of their ancestors, and though they were compelled by the warlike King Offa, and a confederacy

* Taciti Annal. l. xii. as cited in Gough's Camden, Vol. I. Ed. 1806.

confederacy of Saxons princes, to retreat to Mathrafael among the mountains of Powis, they frequently made inroads on their usurping neighbours. The evils attending these hostilities induced that prince to cause a deep dyke and rampart to be made, which extended an hundred miles along the mountainous border of Wales, from the Clwyddian Hills to the Mouth of the Wye. Part of this Dyke may be traced at Brachy Hill, and Leintwardine, in Herefordshire, continuing southward from Knighton in Radnorshire, over part of Shropshire, entering Montgomeryshire, between Bishop's Castle and Newtown. It is again visible in Shropshire near Llanymenech, crosses the Race Course near Oswestry, descends to the Ceiriog near Chirk, where it again enters Wales, and terminates in the Parish of Mold, in Flintshire. This work answered very little purpose as a line of defence, or even of boundary: the Welch continued their incursions far into the borders, and in their hasty retreats often carried with them immense spoil to their native mountains, pursuing the mode of warfare common to all savage nations.

In the ninth century, when the Danes invaded the island, and by their formidable and unremitting incursions seemed to threaten its total subjection, this part of the kingdom of Mercia, though it suffered less than others, came in for a share of the general calamity, and its chief city, Uriconium, was destroyed. The British town of Pengwerne, to which the Saxons had given the synonymous name of Scrobbesbyrig, flourished by its decline; and Alfred, after subduing, settling, or expelling the Danes, and consolidating the English monarchy, ranked this among his principal cities, and gave its name to the Shire of which it is the capital. The boundaries on the western side, however, were still fiercely disputed by the Welsh. In the time of Edward the Confessor, their reigning Prince, Griffydd, rendered himself so formidable by his predatory inroads that his name had become a terror to the English. Harold undertook an expedition against him by land and sea; his light armed troops and cavalry pursued the hardy Britons into their fast-
nesses,

nesses, and harrassed them so effectually that they sent to the victorious Chief the head of their Prince as a token of subjection. In memory of his achievements great piles of stones were erected on many of the mountains of Wales and Shropshire, with this inscription :

Hic victor fuit Haraldus.

Here Harold was victorious.

There is a doubtful tradition that the rude heaps of rock, called by the Britons *Carneddau tewion*, on the ridge of the Stiperstones in this county, were thrown together as monuments of his triumph. He afterwards endeavoured to secure the advantages he had gained, by a decree which forbade any Welshman to appear on the eastern side of Offa's Dyke, on pain of losing his right hand.

At the period of the Norman conquest, almost the whole of this county, besides one hundred and fifty-eight Manors in other parts of the Kingdom were bestowed on Roger de Montgomery, a relation of William the Conqueror, and one of his chief captains, as a reward for his services, in assisting in the conquest, and afterwards in subduing Edric Sylvaticus, Earl of Shrewsbury, to whose title and domains he succeeded. The hostilities of the Welsh frequently disturbed him in the enjoyment of these splendid acquisitions, and in 1067, Owen Gwynedd their prince assaulted the Salopian capital with so formidable a force as to require the army, and the presence of the king himself, to repel and vanquish them. This discomfiture only served to add fresh fuel to the warlike spirit of the Welsh, roused as it had already been by the rapacious encroachments of the Norman barons. The conqueror had sanctioned and authorised these encroachments, for finding himself foiled in his repeated attempts to reduce those high spirited foes to submission, by the force of arms, he adopted a politic mode of warfare, and issued grants to certain of the favourites of all the lands they should be able to conquer from the Welsh. A commission so absolute,
bears

bears a strong analogy to the mandate of a modern despot of our own times to one of his ablest Generals; "Go and conquer a country over which you are destined to reign." He also endeavoured to divide and weaken the Welsh Border Chieftains themselves, by promising a confirmation of all their rights and privileges in return for a simple acknowledgement of dependence on the English crown, and by threatening the seizure of their possessions by right of conquest, as a punishment for their refusal of allegiance. Hence appear to have originated the seignories and jurisdictions of the Lords Marchers. The precise extent of territory, denominated the Marches, is difficult to define. During the time of the Saxons, the Severn was considered the ancient boundary between England and Wales; the lands conquered by Offa on the western side of that river were annexed to the kingdom of Mercia, and afterwards incorporated with the Monarchy, by Alfred the Great. The word Marches, signifies generally, the limits between the Welsh and the English, of which, consequently, the western border of Shropshire formed a principal portion. Of the Norman Lords, besides the Earl of Shrewsbury, who did homage for royal grants of territory in these and other parts adjoining, we notice Fitzalan for Clun and Oswestry; Fitzwarine, for Whittington, and Roger le Strange for Ellesmere. The tenure by which these Lords held under the king was "in case of war to serve with a certain number of vassals, furnish their castles with strong garrisons, with sufficient military implements and stores for defence, and to keep the king's enemies in subjection. To enable them to perform this they were allowed to assume in their respective territories an absolute jurisdiction; their power seems to have been as arbitrary and despotic within their several seignories as that by which they were created."* For the better security of themselves and the government of the people, these new lords repaired and fortified old castles, erected new ones, and garrisoned them

* Evans's *Tour through North Wales*, p. 338.

them with their own soldiers. They also built towns on the choicest spots in the country for their English followers. It was in this manner most of the castles on the borders of Wales were built ; as is evident from their number, there being thirty-three in the county of Salop alone. The whole government and jurisprudence, within their respective limits, depended on the will of the conquerors ; but it sometimes happened that the jurisdiction of one lordship infringed on the rights of another. As they were all equal, these disputes could not be settled by the ordinary decisions of justice. It was necessary therefore that superior courts should be erected for the purpose of accommodating the differences. The lords marchers regularly held their baronial courts, where the inferior lords, who held of them, were obliged to attend. At a subsequent period, the chief court for the Marchers of North Wales was held in Ludlow Castle. To this court appeals might be made, both from the lords themselves against others ; and also, from the people against the wrong judgments of the lords. A president and council were instituted to decide on these appeals, and to control, in some degree, the tyrannical authority exercised by those warlike chiefs over their oppressed vassals.

It has been justly observed, that the high privileges of the lords marchers could not, for many reasons, be held by charter. The kings of England, when they gave to any person such lands as he might conquer from the Welsh, could not fix those immunities on any certain precinct, not knowing which, or whether any, would be eventually subdued. The lords themselves were not solicitous to procure such immunities, as it frequently happened that those lands, of which they had taken possession, were afterwards recovered by the Welsh, either by composition with the kings of England, or by force of arms. Another bar to the granting of such charters was, that privileges of so high and regal a nature could not, by the laws of England, be transferred from the crown. It was therefore deemed more politic to suffer the lords to establish, of their own authority, these
absolute

absolute jurisdictions, and to withhold any grant from the sovereign, which, if ever called in question, might be adjudged of no force. Those lordships, however, which were conquered by English princes themselves, were subject to a more regular jurisdiction, being governed, in general, by the laws of England.

In process of time, as the English arms prevailed, those tenures increased, so that the dominion of the marches, which was originally confined to the line of separation from Wales, penetrated at length into the very heart of the country. On the death of Llewelyn, in the eleventh year of Edward the First, the necessity and the grants ceased together; and after this period no more lords marchers were created. The Welsh submitting to Edward, he took the principality into his own hands, conferred it on his son Edward, Prince of Wales, assembled a parliament at Rhudlan Castle, and enacted laws for the government of the country after the English manner. These laws were confirmed on the following year, by the statute of Rutland. From this period no lord marcher could exercise any prerogative, not previously confirmed to him, without a special grant from the crown. The power and consequence of these once absolute baronial chieftains, being thus curtailed and diminished, gradually declined.

*By statute 28 Edward the Third, all the lords marchers were to be perpetually attending and annexed to the crown of England, as they and their ancestors had been at all times past, and not to the principality of Wales, into whose hands soever it should hereafter come; so that the four counties of Worcester, Gloucester, Hereford, and Salop, were never termed the marches of England, but of Wales. The sovereignty of the crown of England ever extended to Wales itself. By statute 27 Henry the Eighth, for incorporating Wales with England, all lords marchers were to enjoy such liberties, mises, and profits as they had, or used to have, at the first entry

* Gough's Camden, Vol. III. p. 11.

entry into their lands in times past, notwithstanding that act. The court of the president, and council of the Marches of North Wales, was re-established by Edward the Fourth, in honour of the Earl of March, from whom he was descended : it owed its first institution to the prerogative royal transacting matters, and acting judicially by virtue of that authority, to the entire satisfaction of the subjects, for a period of about sixty years ; until by 34 Henry the Eighth, that court was confirmed by an act of parliament, then considered expedient by reason of other laws relating to Wales, which were at that time further enlarged and explained. The act concerning the court of Ludlow runs thus ; “ that there shall be and remain a resident and council in the dominion of Wales and the Marches of the same, with all officers, clerks, and incidents to the same, in manner and form as it hath been heretofore used and accustomed, which resident and council shall have power and authority to hear and determine such causes and matters as be or hereafter shall be assigned to them, by the king’s majesty, as heretofore hath been accustomed and used.” It is to be observed, that before the enactment of this statute, the lord president always kept his court in some place within the English pale, and not in Wales, which circumstance gave the court a pretext for extending its jurisdiction into the four counties above-mentioned. Hence from the indefinite application of the term Marches, a question arose in the reign of James the First, how far these counties were under the jurisdiction of “ the lord president of Wales and the Marches thereof,” for by statute 34 Henry the Eighth, they were to be excluded from the jurisdiction, and by the 27 Henry the Eighth, several lordships marches were annexed to England, and others annexed to Wales, and those last were properly “ Wales and the Marches thereof,” within the words of the statute. Besides, the king’s writ always running in those four English counties, it is not to be supposed that they should not be comprehended in the jurisdiction of the court of the Marches, then newly established without

without express words. In the course of the argument on this question an objection was started, on what might properly be reputed the Marches of Wales, upon inference that the word *Marches* should never have been put into the statute of 34 Henry the Eighth, unless it had a definite import. The answer was, that the words “dominion and principality” of Wales were not extensive enough to comprehend the shires of Brecknock, Radnor, Montgomery, and Denbigh, which were wholly composed of lordships marchers only, and either or both of the former terms, principality and dominion, would stretch themselves no farther than the eight counties of Wales; so that the word *marches* in that statute must be only provincial, since by 27 Henry the Eighth, all was made to be either of Wales or England. But if there was a necessity that something might still be reputed marches, then those lordships could only be the marches that were made counties of themselves, and not those that were annexed to either ancient English or Welsh counties, for they were reputed to be of the same nation with those counties respectively. The argument for the jurisdiction of the lord president over the four English counties was, in substance, that the court of the president and council was not erected but confirmed by act of parliament; there was a president and council in the time of Edward the Fourth, as is evident from the words of the statute, which refers twice to the usage; (*“which heretofore hath been used;”*) therefore whatsoever was the intention of the king in erecting this court, was likewise the intention of parliament in establishing it. That the lord president exercised his jurisdiction in the lordships marches of the ancient English counties, nay, in the counties themselves, is confirmed by the constant practice of all times.

The marches of Wales which were comprehended in Shropshire, according to Domesday, and perhaps always so since the making of Offa’s Dyke, such as the lordships, towns, parishes, commots, hundreds and cantreds of Oswestry, Whittington, Maeshbrook,

Maesbrook, Knockin, Ellesmere, Down and Cherbury, were by the statute 27 Henry the eighth, above cited, made guildable, and annexed to the county of Salop; but as the act says, no otherwise privileged than as other hundreds within the said county.* By a subsequent statute 34 and 35 of the same reign, the town and hundred of Aberton, till then called parcel of Merionethshire, was also annexed to Salop, and all offences committed in that county were to be enquired of in this.

The jurisdiction of the president and council of the marches was abolished by act of parliament in the first year of the reign of William and Mary, at the humble suit of all the gentlemen and other inhabitants of the principality of Wales. The preamble of the act sets forth, that the court was a great grievance to the subject. Among the principal complaints urged against it, may be ranked the mal-practices of its attornies and inferior officers, “whereby,” as the words of the records were, “justice had lacked due execution, and the inhabitants had been sundry ways most grievously vexed and molested, as also by long delays of suits, and new exactions of fees, greatly impoverished; so that the court, which was in the beginning erected for the ease and relief of the inhabitants, was become to them, through such abuses, most grievous and intolerable.” The first lord president after the re-establishment by Edward the fourth, was earl Rivers, his brother-in-law; and the last was the earl of Macclesfield, whose commission afterwards ran as lord lieutenant of North and South Wales. An eminent writer of those times, speaking of the abolition of this jurisdiction, observes, “that it had proved an intolerable burthen to Wales and the borders at all times, and a means to introduce an arbitrary power, especially in the late reign, when a new convert family were at the head of it; nor could the earl of Macclesfield, the late president, who kept his court at Ludlow, reduce it to such order as to cease to be a grievance, and therefore it was dissolved.”

* MS. History of Salop, by Edward Lloyd of Treneweth, cited by Mr. Gough.

dissolved." The Welsh chancery office is now kept in Lincoln's Inn.

After the extinction of feudal tyranny, and the final overthrow of Welsh independence, the varying extent and limits of Shropshire became settled and defined. It is bounded on the north by Denbighshire, by the detached part of Flintshire, and by Cheshire; on the east by Staffordshire; on the south by Worcestershire and Herefordshire; and on the west by Radnorshire, Montgomeryshire and Denbighshire. This latter county of course bounds it on the north-west. It lies nearly within 52 and 53 degrees north latitude and 2 and 3 degrees west longitude from London. It is stated to be about forty-four miles long from north to south, twenty-eight broad from east to west, and an hundred and thirty-four in circumference. The area circumscribed by these boundaries is computed at 890,000 acres, or about a forty-fifth part of England and Wales. Its shape is an irregular parallelogram, somewhat approaching to an oval. The principal natural division of the county is the river Severn, which runs from north-west to south-east, dividing it into nearly equal parts. There are fifteen hundreds, or districts answering to that denomination, namely, Oswestry, Pimhill, Bradford North, Bradford South, and Brimstry, on the north-east side of the Severn; the liberty of Shrewsbury, the franchises of Wenlock, and the hundred of Stottesden, extending on both banks of that river; the hundreds of Ford, Chirbury Cundover, Munslow, Overs, Purslow, and the honour of Clun, on the south-west side of the Severn. All these divisions, as well as the parishes which they contain, are disproportionate in size and irregular in shape. Several of the parishes, in common with those of other counties, are intersected by other parishes, or have one or more detached districts. The Rev. archdeacon Plymley, to whose work on the Agriculture of Shropshire we are indebted for much substantial and accurate information, assigns a very satisfactory reason for irregularities in these originally ecclesiastical divisions. He

premises, that this county is in part in the three dioceses of Hereford, of Litchfield and Coventry, and of St. Asaph. The detached parish of Hales Owen is in that of Worcester. The archdeaconry of Salop, in Hereford diocese, comprehends, together with about one half of this county, part of Montgomeryshire, Radnorshire, Herefordshire, and Worcestershire. The archdeaconry of Salop in Litchfield and Coventry diocese is principally within the county; a few of the Shropshire parishes are in the archdeaconry of Stafford, one in that of Hereford, and others in that of St. Asaph, which is co-extensive with the diocese, and the office is there holden by the bishop. The ecclesiastical deaneries, again, comprehend parts of different counties and of different hundreds. The civil division of manors, though frequently confined to the whole or part of a parish, comprehends, in some instances, parts of two parishes, and has within it parts of different townships; and the jurisdictions of courts-leet, but are not always confined to the hundred in which they are situated. He then observes, that the history of that experience from whence our constitution has so happily arisen, points out circumstances from which these various limitations of district have grown. With respect to parishes, they seem to have originated at the introduction and propagation of Christianity in these kingdoms, when lords of manors and persons of extensive landed property erected churches, as religion advanced, for the use of themselves and of their tenants. To these churches they procured the tithes arising from their estates to be paid, which, if not specially appropriated, would have been paid to the bishop of the diocese, for the use of the clergy in general, and for such pious purposes as he deemed necessary. Now the founders of any church would wish that all their lands should pay tithe thereto rather than to any other, and in preference to their tithes being applied at the discretion of the bishop; so that where the estate of any founder of a church was scattered, the districts appropriated to pay tithe to it would be scattered

scattered also; and it was from the junction of these circumstances, a church being built and a district appointed to pay tithe to its minister, that parishes had their beginning.

The number of churches in this county is as follows:

In the archdeaconry of Salop and diocese of Litchfield and Coventry, 109.

In the archdeaconry of Stafford and diocese of Litchfield and Coventry, 5.

In the peculiar jurisdiction of Bridgenorth, 6.

In the archdeaconry and diocese of Worcester, 3.

In the archdeaconry of Salop and diocese of Hereford, 127.

In the diocese of St. Asaph there are 12 churches, making, in the county of Salop, 262 churches, of which about 229 are parochial.

Burfield near Clun, Pinmore in the hundred of Purslow, Hor-derley near Edgeton, Haghman demesne near Shrewsbury, Farm on the Heath near Knuckin, Posenall near Broseley, Bos-cobel near Donnington, and Woodhouse near Cleobury Mor-timer, are extraparochial districts, most, if not all of which had churches that are now destroyed.*

There is a considerable difference in the climate of this county, owing to the irregularity of its soil and surface. The harvest on the eastern side, where the land is warm and flat, is frequently ripe about a fortnight sooner than in the middle of the county, where the vales are extensive, but where the surface is less light, and the bottom often clayey; and hay and grain are both gathered earlier in the middle of the county than on the western side where the vales are narrow, the high lands frequent and extensive, although the ground is not in general so stiff and lies for the most part on a semi-rock full of fissures.† The easterly winds prevail in spring, and those from the west in autumn, but, in the opinion of the judicious archdeacon, the

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easterly

* Archdeacon Plymley's Survey of Shropshire, [1803] p. 37.

† Ib. p. 38.

easterly winds are the most regular, those from the west generally blowing for a series of years, (five or six, perhaps) strong and frequent, and then for somewhat near a similar space less often and less violent. The same may be said of wet and dry seasons, but the periods of both appear to be much shorter. The air is generally very salubrious.

MINERALOGY.—In tracing the general features of the county, the plain of Salop* naturally claims the first attention of the topographer. It constitutes the most interesting portion of that vast valley between the hills of Wales and those of Derbyshire and Staffordshire. It is a tract of considerable extent, divided by the Severn into two unequal portions; and, though flat when compared with the surrounding hills, of very varied surface. Its greatest extent from north to south may be reckoned about thirty miles, comprehending the space between Whitchurch and Church-Stretton; its breadth from Oswestry to Coalbrook Dale, is about twenty-eight miles. A range of limestone from Ruabon to Llanymenech and the Breidden Hills, forms the western boundary; the northern extremity terminates on the borders of Cheshire and Flintshire; the eastern line consists of the hills on the Staffordshire border, the Wrekin, the hills of Acton Burnel, Frodsley, the Lawley, and Caer-Caradoc; the southern boundary is formed by the Longinont, Stiperstones, and Longmountain.

From Hawkstone, southwards to Lea and Grinshill Hills, extends a line of siliceous freestone, chiefly of the red kind, except at Grinshill, where there is a considerable quantity of white, of which great use has been made in the bridges, churches, and other modern edifices, of Shrewsbury. To the west of this, is another ridge of the same kind of stone, beginning a little north of Ellesmere; and in its progress southwards, dividing into two branches, one of which

* Journal of a Tour through North Wales and Part of Shropshire, by Arthur Aikin, p. 187, et seq.

which descending between Ellesmere and Whixall Moss, touches upon Wem, includes Middle and Armor Hills, and terminates in Pym Hill; the other branch, passing to the west of Ellesmere, reaches the river Perry, which it accompanies to its junction with the Severn, under the names of Nesscliff and Leaton Shelf; then crossing the Severn, it terminates in the high grounds at Bicton and Onslow. The valleys between each ridge contain marl, more or less mixed with sand and clay. This tract, about seventeen miles from north to south, and varying in breadth from eight to fourteen, has but few running waters, but abounds in peat mosses, and in large pools or meres, of which the chief are the pools of Ancott, Marton, Fennymoor, Beaumere, Berrington, and five others of considerable size near Ellesmere.

On the West of this Sandstone, and nearly parallel with the Welsh border, is a band of Coal Strata extending from the Dee to the Severn. The Coal, in many parts of this tract, is wrought to a considerable extent, and, beside its domestic use, is largely employed in the Limeworks of Chirk, and Llanymenech. To the West of the Coal Strata, and serving as the foundation of these, extends an irregular band of Limestone, in some places rising at least 500 feet above the level of the plain, and in others scarcely appearing beyond the surface of the soil. This Limestone in many parts, especially near Oswestry, is in the state of perfect marble, and small quantities both of lead and copper, have been found throughout its whole extent. The limestone itself rests upon the beds of slate that compose the Ferwyn mountains, of which only a small portion, the slate mountain of Selattyn, is within the boundary of the county of Salop.

On the north-east of the plain, the sandstone, extending from Hawkstone towards Salop, is bordered by a range of Grauwakke, commencing in Haghmond Hill, about two miles from Shrewsbury. The strata of this hill are nearly perpendicular to the horizon, and its escarpment faces the Severn, that

flows within half a mile of its bottom. The valley eastward between this ridge and the Wrekin, consists of sandstone similar to the former, mixed with many rolled fragments of granite and other primitive rocks, and in the swampy tract, called the Wild-moors, covered to a considerable depth by peat. The Wrekin itself, with two other smaller hills on the North-east of it, consists of unstratified greenstone and amygdaloid, mixed with compact felspar and covered in many parts by strata of siliceous schistus. It is craggy at the top, and so much higher than the surrounding hills, as apparently to rise alone from the middle of the plain; its plan is a long oval, pointing nearly north and south; its figure very exactly resembling that of a whale asleep on the surface of the sea. The most precipitous side of the mountain, is the eastern; its height is about 1100 feet.* Eastward of the Wrekin is found limestone and basalt, upon which rests the great formation of coal and ironstone. This tract, in which are concentrated all the great iron works of the County, is bounded on the east by a long broad line of sandstone, beginning north of Shiffnal, and accompanying the course of the Severn till it quits the county. The rocks on both sides of the river, at the entrance of Coalbrook Dale from Shrewsbury, are composed of limestone, and form the northern extremity of a long range, which passes by Wenlock in a south-west direction, as far as Ludlow. It is this singular combination of coal, iron ore, and lime, together with the advantage of

* From an actual level taken in 1790, it was found that the fall, from the summit of the Wrekin to Ketley Brook

	Feet	Inches
was	897	7

And from thence to the water in the river Severn, at Coal Port, with a six feet water	192	0
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In all....	1089	7
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Archdeacon Plymley's Report, p. 45.

of water carriage, that renders Coalbrook Dale, the centre of the most extensive iron works in the kingdom; the ore for the most part is so poor, as, in less favourable situations, to be hardly worth the trouble of reducing; yet here, where the fuel and flux are near at hand, it is made the source of astonishing wealth, and supports a population of many thousands.

The coal district of Coalbrook Dale, lying on the east side of the Wrekin, and running parallel with it from the north-east to south-west, is about eight miles long and two broad.* It is first observed on the other side of the Severn, in the parishes of Barrow and Much Wenlock, and runs through those of Broseley, Madeley, Little Wenlock, Wellington, Dawley, Malins Lea, Shiffnall, and Lilleshall. The whole, but especially the southern part of this coal district, is considerably above the level of the plain of Shropshire, so that near Horsehay it is 500 feet above the river Severn, which flows in its neighbourhood. The dip of the strata varies; in the parish of Madeley it is towards the east, and near Wellington and Linsell it is from north to north-east, about one yard in ten.

The support or foundation of the coal and its accompanying strata, is dye-earth and basalt. The former lies on the east side, the latter on the west. The dye-earth is a grey dry clay, which effervesces with acids, and contains petrifications, chiefly of the Dudley-fossil kind. It is a stratified mass, and at Tickwood, in the neighbourhood of Coalbrook Dale, may be seen to be at least an hundred yards thick. The basalt varies from the softer and lighter kind, called Wacke, to true basalt. In some places in the parishes of Broseley, Madeley, Little Wenlock, Wellington, and Lilleshall, limestone is found as the support of the coal strata. At Wombridge, in the northern part of the coal district, Dr. Townson enumerates and measures seventy of these strata, forming a mass of about five hundred

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and

* Tracts in Natural History and Physiology, by Robert Townson, LL.D. &c. p. 164.

and fifty feet thick. The order in which they lie is not common to all the district, nor do they always correspond in thickness.

The coal district of Coalbrook Dale, like other extended coal-fields, is troubled with faults; that is, the strata are broken, and in some parts lie much lower than they do in others. The principal faults in this district run nearly north-east and south-west. Two of these have thrown the strata on the east and west sides, from one to two hundred yards lower than they are in the middle. This elevated middle district, which does not affect the surface, is about seven miles in length, and from one to two in breadth, and it is here, on account of the greater facility of working the mines, that by far the greatest quantity of coal and ironstone have been gotten. The Madeley-Wood and Lightmoor works are the only collieries in the eastern depression, which is called a *swamp*, and the Ketley and Hadley the most western in the western swamp. The elevated district has several faults, running in various directions, which have caused depressions in some places of fifty or sixty yards.*

The strata of this district, like those of other coal-fields, inclose many animal and vegetable productions; few, however, in the upper strata. In the iron-stone nodules, called the ball-stone, impressions of various ferns are common. In the blackish grey dry clay, called the flint coal-roof, a kind of muscle shells, and some vegetable impressions are found. In the sandstone, called the flint, there is an immense quantity of those vegetable petrifications, or rather impressions which have been compared with some of the cacti and euphorbia tribes; they are sometimes in cylinders of the thickness of a man's thigh. Another kind resembles the sugar cane, both kinds are of sandstone. In the Pinny measure, which lies under the last-mentioned, no vegetable impressions are found, but some shells of the limpet
or

* Dr. Townson, ut sup.

or cockle kinds. The bed of dye earth which supports the coal strata contains many of the Dudley fossils, and some small bivalves.

The *tophus turbinatus*, *calcarius multicorticatus*, *internè imbricatus* of Linnæus, here called curl-stone, forms an almost continued stratum in the Pinny measure. The points of the cones always point upwards. It has been occasionally used both as a flux for the iron-stone, and, after being burnt, as marl for manure.

The columnar iron ore, which so well resembles basaltic columns in miniature, is common at Ketley, but this form here is the result of torrefaction. In the limestone quarries at Lincoln-hill, large geodes full of fluid pitch are frequently found.

After this sketch of the mineralogy of the plain of Salop north of the Severn, it may be proper to follow the guidance, and quote the observations of Mr. Aikin on those ridges, which lie on the south side of the river: Of these, observes that accurate and elegant tourist, the first (in the order of position from east to west) is the limestone ridge which, commencing in Lincoln-hill at Coalbrook-dale, proceeds in a south-westerly direction towards Stretton, near which place being forced to the south by the hills round Hope Bowdler, it descends nearly in a right line to Ludlow. The form of these hills is the same with that of every other limestone range, at a sufficient distance from the primitive mountains. The outline of a limestone hill commonly rises from the plane of the horizon with an angle of about twenty-five degrees till it reaches the height of three or four hundred feet, it then proceeds in a direction nearly level with its base, but more usually ascending than descending, for the space of half a mile or even a mile, and at length drops down into the plain at a very large angle, approaching frequently to a right angle; and this precipitate descent is called its *escarpment*. Of the range of hills now under consideration the escarpment is to the southwest, and
the

the steepest descent of the side is that towards the plain of Salop. Near Coalbrook-dale the lime abounds in crystals, but great part of the rock is a coarse confusedly crystallized marble. As the hills proceed further south they alter somewhat in shape, the difference between the ascent and escarpment being less perceptible, like the shale hills; the lime is mixed more with clay, the strata become thinner and more like schistus; the only appearance of crystallization is between the strata, and the substance becomes so soft as to be easily broken down by a small hammer.

Westward of this ridge is a valley, the soil of which consists of clay and limestone: its breadth is about two miles, and its length from Coalbrook-dale to Stretton valley is nearly fifteen miles.

This valley, to the west, is bounded by some low hills of micaceous argillaceous schistus; ranging for the most part without any intermediate valley along the base of a ridge of Trap mountains. This ridge, of which the Wrekin is the northern extremity, appears on the south side of the Severn in the same line with the Wrekin, and consists of the of the hills of Acton-Burnel, Frodsley, the Lawley, Caer Caradoc and Hope Bowdler hills. Each of these like the Wrekin has the long diameter from north-east to south-west, they are craggy at the top, and ascend from the plain of Salop very abruptly at an angle of about 60° . Of this ridge those hills which form the eastern side of Stretton valley, have their bases covered by a bed of very shivery shale rising to the height of 200 or 300 feet. The vale in which Church Stretton is situated, separates the Trap mountains from a very singular mass of hills, called the *Longmont*. They ascend gradually from the plain to the height of about 800 feet and then with a very level and unvaried summit stretch for several miles towards Bishop's Castle. Squareness seems the peculiar characteristic of these hills, both in their plan and outline; and from Stretton vale, this
singu-

singularity appears to the greatest advantage. Three or four lines of hills are seen rising one above another, the form of each of which was in all probability nearly a cube; at present, however, from the diminution of their tops, and the proportionate enlargement of their bases, they approach nearer to the figure of a truncated pyramid. Almost every individual is separated from the surrounding hills by a deep narrow valley or glen, with a stream flowing through it, forming occasionally small cascades, and here and there overhung by woods. The substance of which the Longmont is composed appears to be solely a very shivery kind of schistus,* it is covered for the most part with heath and short grass, and furnishes an extensive pasturage for many sheep. Several brooks take their rise here, some of which flow northward into the plain of Shrewsbury, and others tend southwards, watering the country between Bishop's Castle and Ludlow.

Following the mountainous line that forms the southern boundary of the plain of Salop, we next come to a very elevated rocky tract between the high road from Shrewsbury to Bishop's Castle, and the vale of Montgomery. The most elevated peak of this assemblage of lofty hills is called *Stiper-stones*; its summit is extremely craggy, and overspread with enormous loose blocks of quartz, that at a distance appear like the ruins of some great fortress.† In height it is rather superior to the Wrekin, and forms the abrupt termination of a line of mountains that hence extend south-west into Radnorshire. Towards the plain of Salop the base of the Stiperstones is bordered by the basalt and amygdaloid of Pontesford hill, and by the limestone

* It certainly presents that appearance on its east side near the Strettons, but Dr. Townson says, the nature of the rock in general is compound sandstone.

Archdeacon Plymley's Report, p. 69.—*Dr. Townson's Tracts*, &c. p. 186.

† See before, p. 10.

stone and coal strata of Plaley and Pontesbury, which last join the great mass of sandstone already described.

Lead is procured in considerable quantity from various parts of the Stiperstones; chiefly, however, from the Hope and Snailbeach mines. The matrix of the ore is crystallized quartz, sulphate and carbonate of barytes and carbonate of lime both the rhomboidal and dog-tooth spar; the rhomboidal is frequently covered with pyramidal quartz crystals, and the quartz itself is overspread in many specimens with iron pyrites and very minute needles of dog-tooth spar. The ore is,

- I. Sulphuret of lead, both galena and steel ore, which latter contains silver.
- II. Carbonate of lead, crystallized.
- III. Red lead ore.
- IV. Blende, or black jack.

The red lead ore was first discovered in these mines, by Raspe, a German mineralogist. It greatly resembles the pulverulent cinnabar ores, being entirely free from crystals. Its matrix is a dark stone evidently containing iron; whether, however, it derives its colour from the iron, or is a native minium, Mr. Aikin does not profess to determine. The lead ore is reduced at Minsterley and other places near the mines, whence it is sent by land-carriage to Shrewsbury; here it is shipped together with the raw calamine, in the Severn barges, and sent down to Bristol.

The country between the vale of Montgomery and the vale of the Severn is entirely occupied by two masses of hills, one the Long mountain with its dependencies, the other the Breidden hills. These complete the southern boundary of the plain of Salop, but as they belong to another county, a description of them here would be out of place.

From the Stiperstones a range of low hills proceeds, in a north easterly direction, as far as Shrewsbury, known under the

the names of Lyth Hill, Baiston Hill, and the Sharpstones: they consist, for the most part, of grauwakke mixed with mica; in some places, however, the rock is covered with an indurated stratum of various thickness, consisting of rounded pebbles, in size from a walnut to a grain of corn, cemented with clay; the pebbles are quartz, semi-transparent, varying in colour from pure white to flesh colour, and containing particles of mica. On the west, however, of Lyth Hill, descending to Meole Brook, are several beds of a stratified rock, consisting of clay, sulphurett of iron, and lime: on the addition of nitrous acid, a very lively effervescence takes place; it melts into porous shining black slag, on being kept a few minutes in a white heat in an open fire; when exposed to an inferior degree of heat, and plunged into water, a considerable quantity of hepatic gas is extricated. This rock shelves gradually down to Pulley Common, and is there terminated by beds of soft lime and coals; this latter mineral indeed is found accompanying almost the whole course of Meole Brook: there are three strata lying over each other; the first, called Funkers, are intimately mixed with a large proportion of iron pyrites, and are only used for burning lime and bricks; the next are of superior quality, but the lowest are by far the best; they are of a deep shining black, soil the fingers but little, and are so inflammable as to take fire when held a few moments in a candle. Salt springs are found in many of the pits, of which one at Sutton is in great repute, as an efficacious purgative.

In tracing the mineralogy of the southern district of the county, we are enabled to avail ourselves of the curious and profound researches of Dr. Townson. He observes, that if we come back to the Lawley and Caradoc, and then continue our course eastward, we find under both these hills on their eastern side, a parallel range of white standstone, which in some places has a very coarse grain. Where it is most regular, as under the Lawley, it presents its escarpment towards these hills,

hills, from which it is divided by a small valley. Under the Caradoc, on one spot, it forms a little conical hill.

In the southerly district, the Brown Cleve Hill, and the Titterston Cleve Hill which lies three or four miles to the south of the former, are amongst the highest hills in Shropshire, and are, particularly the latter, treasures for this part of the county. They belong to the flat-topped hills, but are very irregular in their forms. They are about five or six miles in length, and about half as much in breadth. They resemble each other in their products; both contain coal and ironstone, which in both are in some parts covered by a thick bed of basalt, and this basalt in each forms two irregular ridges higher than the other parts of the hill. They further agree in their strata dipping all round from their circumference to the centre, like the sides of a bowl. But they differ greatly in the quantity of coal they yield. The coal in the Brown Cleve Hill only lies in thin strata, and is chiefly worked in a small way by poor colliers, whilst the principal stratum in the Titterston is six feet thick. On this hill there are six different coal fields, which differ considerably in their extent and thickness. The most extensive and valuable is the Cornbrook, which is about a mile long and half a mile broad.*

The

* The following lists will shew what are the strata in this field. The immense bed of basalt, which lies above the coal, is a remarkable circumstance in this part of the kingdom.

Strata found in sinking the deep pit in the southern part of the hill.

	<i>yds.</i>	<i>feet.</i>
Earth and Sandstone Rock	10	1½
Basalt, called here Jewstone.....	64	1½
Sandstone Rock, Bind, Clunch, and Coal Roof. Dry		
Clays	23	0
The great Coal	2	0
Coal Bottom, and Ironstone Roof. These are dry		
Clays.....	1	1
Ironstone Measure. A dry Clay.....	1	0
Three-quarter Coal.....	0	1½
Clumper. Hard dry Clay	2	0
Smith's Coal	1	2
The Smith's Coal Bottom. Dry Clay down to the		
Four-foot Coal Rock	0	2

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The

The Newbury coal field, which is in the south end of the hill, is about half a mile long by a quarter broad. This has the same number of beds of coal, as the preceding, but they are always about one-third thicker. The basalt does not cover the coal in this field, nor is it found in it. The other coal-fields,

The strata in the water-pit, which is about a quarter of a mile to the north-east of the preceding, are—

	<i>yds.</i>	<i>feet.</i>
Basalt, here called Jewstone.....	48	0
Brown and white Clunch. Dry Clay.....	6	0
Red Rock. A yellowish Sandstone	9	0
Bind and Clunch. Dry Clays	9	0
Pinney Ironstone Measure. Dry Clay	1	0
Clunch. Dry Clay.....	3	0
Brown Rock. A yellowish Sandstone	6	0
Tuft (plastic Clay) and Sand.....	1	0
Black Bind. A dry Clay	4	0
Rock. Very coarse Sandstone	5	0
Strong Clay.....	1	0
Horse-flesh Earth. A variegated red and white Marl	6	0
Grey Rock. Sandstone	6	0
Bind. A dry Clay	2	0
Great Coal Rock. Whitish Sandstone	6	0
Coal Roof. Dry Clay	3	0
The Great Coal	2	0
Coal Bottom Pounsin. A dry Clay.....	1	0
Ironstone Roof and Measure. A dry Clay	1	1
Three-quarters Coal and Bass	0	2
Clumper. A hard dry Clay.....	3	1
Smith Coal and Clad in it.....	1	2
Strong Clunch. Dry Clay	2	0
Flan and Bass. Hard dry Clay	0	2
Strong Clunch. Dry Clay	3	0
Four-foot Coal and Bass	1	0
Strong brown Clunch. Dry Clay	1	0
Sunk into the Four-foot Coal Rock.....	3	1

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fields, which are likewise never covered by basalt, are of small extent, and have only one stratum of coal, from eighteen inches to two feet and a half thick; or the same divided into two by a thin bed of clay.

The Hill Work coal-field, one of the six, lies upon, or is surrounded by, the Cornbrook coal-field, and when the coal in this latter field is cut off by a fault in the neighbourhood of the former, the miners, in working in that direction, have always come to basalt. All these little coal-fields, with their accompanying strata, dip all round from their circumferences to their centres, and are to be considered, not as parts of one great bowl, but as so many small ones. Canal coal is found in this hill. On account of the great expense of sinking through the basalt, coal is here about one-third dearer than in the Coalbrook Dale district.

Both these hills, like others, similarly situated in this part of the kingdom, have the vestiges of ancient fortifications on their summits. The highest parts of both are enclosed by a dyke or mound, which differ from most others in this, that they are not of earth, but of loose fragments of basalt, which are found in great abundance on these hills. The dykes are about six or eight yards broad at their bases, but now no where above three or four feet high, and seldom that. From these hills the Caradoc and the Malvern hills, both of which have still the remains of fortifications are distinctly seen; and these, by lying between them, were well adapted to keep up a correspondence by signals.

About two or three miles north east lies Orton bank, which furnishes a great quantity of lime for that part of the country. The lime-rock is composed of several strata, varying a little in colour and grain. Dr. Townson observed one stratum of the Oolithus (Bath and Portland stone) lying between strata of common limestone. Sandstone prevails in the neighbourhood. About Kinlet, which is farther east, there are some small hills where whin or basalt is found, with small calcareous glands.

Billingsley,

Billingsley, two or three miles to the north east, is a coal country; it produces likewise the argillaceous ironstone. There is a considerable colliery here. In the Wire Forest, and about the banks of the Severn in that neighbourhood, sandstone strata prevail, and likewise from the Clee Hills to Bewdley, on the confines of Worcestershire, and about Bridgenorth, on each side of the Severn; and from Bridgenorth, in a north-east direction, to Tong Castle and Weston, on the borders of Staffordshire. Sandstone has also been found in the southern part of the county. About Ludlow limestone hills are common. The castle is built on a grey argillaceous stone, a kind of very fine grey argillaceous sandstone, which effervesces and contains shells. This and similar kinds of strata are said to be common in this neighbourhood, and to the westward, in the Hundred of Clun, on the confines of Wales.*

After this general view of the mineralogy of the county, it may be proper to give a description of the SOIL and SURFACE in the different hundreds. In that of Oswestry there is a considerable quantity both of deep loam and gravelly soil. There is also some marl in that parish; and in the parish of West Felton a large portion of black peaty bog, drained and draining. On the north-west side of the county, adjoining Denbighshire, the soil lies over strata of coal and limestone; on the south-east it becomes sandy. Pimhill hundred contains a mixture of boggy land and of sand, lying over a red sandstone, with a greater proportion of sound wheat land. Bradford North has some low land of a peaty nature, with some good meadow land, a

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considerable

* For the length of this detail on the mineralogy of Shropshire little apology may be necessary, when it is considered that the subject has been thought worthy of investigation by two of the ablest professors of the science, Mr. A. Aikin and Dr. Townson. The former gentleman is now (1810) engaged in writing a mineralogical survey of the county, which, from his profound knowledge, tried abilities, and indefatigable industry, will no doubt possess a just claim to the approbation of the public, while it confirms the solid reputation which the author has already acquired.

considerable quantity of sand, and some gravelly soils. A M S account of this hundred says, " its most profitable subterranean earths are, clay for making of bricks ; marl for improving of lands ; and peat or turf for firing. In the hundreds of Bradford North and East Brimstry there is the least diversity ; it is generally a sandy loam." In the franchise of Wenlock, pale-coloured clays prevail, though there is some light land, and (as has been already noticed) strata of coal, of ironstone, and of limestones in great abundance, covered with a soil, reduced perhaps by the operation of the air upon the limestone. In the hundreds of Stottesden, Overs, and Munslow there is much clay also, and considerable quantities of coal, ironstone, and limestone, over which is a stony soil of great variety. The land which lies over the limestone, or is mixed with it, or with the calcareous gravel resembling it, is frequently the best in the neighbourhood. The next is soil lying over freestone ; the upper surface of the rocks is frequently broken up by the plough, and becomes with the soil a rocky loam, fit for turnips and barley. Sometimes a slate marl lies under the surface ; such a soil is esteemed, but it is not common. There are some sands, lying over a red sandstone, particularly near Bridgenorth, and some clays of a reddish colour, particularly near Ludlow, being almost the extremities of the two first-mentioned hundreds. The surface is irregular throughout the three ; and in the hundred of Overs, the Titterston Clee hill rises to a considerable height. Not far north of it, in the franchise of Wenlock, is the Brown Clee hill ; and from the south borders of Bradford Scuth, through the same franchise, runs that remarkable ridge of limestone rock, which we have before noticed. In the hundred of Cundover, there is more flat land, but still great inequality of surface. The Lyth hill stands within it ; the Caradoc and Lawley, which are distinct hills of some height, and the extensive common of Longmont or Longmynd which is still higher, connect it to the south and west, with the hundreds of Munslow and Pur-slow. In Cundover Hundred there is a good deal of gravelly loam,

loam, sand, and clay, often intermingled in very small beds; clayey soils lying over red sandstone, and others with gravel or sand under them. In the liberties of Shrewsbury and in the hundred of Ford there is also much pebbly loam; some reddish rock and clay, north of Shrewsbury, and some lighter coloured clays, lying over limestone on the north borders of Ford hundred: its southern district is very much a deep clayey soil, with coal under, and becomes at last, gravelly, rocky, and uneven. The hundred of Chirbury is still more uneven, but has plains of a deep, light-coloured loam or clay. Purslow and Clun are very uneven; but several of the hills are smooth, and afford fine sheep-walks, with a slaty rock underneath, in some places containing so much silex as to form good roof-slate, and in others good building-stone; but most commonly the rock is argillaceous. There are some pale-coloured clays in these districts, and a considerable quantity of lighter soils, not so much gravelly perhaps, as mingled with argillaceous rock, which becomes friable on exposure to the air. In the vales, the meadow and pasture ground is very good.

The crops commonly cultivated in this county are wheat, barley, oats, pease, and turnips. Hops are cultivated on a small part of the Herefordshire side of the county; hemp, flax, and cabbages are only got in small quantities. The culture of potatoes increases annually. The growth of hay and the improvement of pasture are more neglected than any other branch of agriculture. On the borders of the Severn and other flat lands contiguous to lesser streams, which occasionally overflow, and enrich the adjoining lands by their deposit, there are natural meadows which are constantly mown without any other manure being bestowed upon them. The crops on these are liable to be spoiled by floods during their growth; an evil which might be remedied by an act of Parliament enabling the occupiers to raise a rate for embanking, opening the channel, and making back-drains. The upland meadows are better attended to.

The grasses most common in Shropshire are the following:

anthoxanthum odoratum, sweet-scented vernal grass; *phleum pratense*, timothy grass; *alopecurus pratensis*, meadow fox-tail. Some species of the *agrostis* are common, but they flower so late as to be of little use for cultivation. Several varieties of the *poa* and of the *festuca* abound.

Of plants, one of the most abundant is the *valeriana officinalis*, great wild valerian; the *lithospermum arvense*, or corn gromwell, a common inhabitant of corn-fields. *Campanula rotundifolia*, round-leaved bell-flower, often called hare-bell. *Campanula patula*, field bell-flower. *Viola lutea*, yellow violet, sparingly scattered about Titterstone, and frequently met with near West Felton. *Berberis vulgaris*, or common barbery. *Colchicum autumnale*, meadow saffron, found in a few parts of the county. The *orchis bifolia*, butterfly orchis, near Ludlow and Bedston, and in other parts. *Asplenium trichomanes*, trichomanes spleenwort, an elegant and beautiful plant, common about Ludlow. *Asplenium adiantum nigrum*, black spleenwort; a less common but more beautiful plant than the preceding. Many lichens of a rare and beautiful kind, are found on the rocks and old walls in various parts of the county.

WOODS AND PLANTATIONS. Notwithstanding large yearly falls of timber, there are still some fine woods of oak growing in this county. There is a good deal of hedge-row timber also, consisting of oak and ash principally; a few wych and other elms; still fewer beech, lime and sycamore. Poplars are not uncommon by the sides of brooks and small rivers. There are a few yew-trees; hollies have been plentiful, but that ornamental tree, and useful fence, appears to have been neglected or destroyed. Birches, both as trees and as fences, are common in the south-west district. There are many modern plantations of various sorts of firs and pine, generally mixed with different deciduous trees. Timber in this county, as in all others, has been infinitely more destroyed than preserved. There still are many thousand acres of coppice-wood, the value of which depends much on situation; but, on an average, does

does not exceed seven shillings yearly per acre. As fuel, the demand for coppice wood is diminished, by the increased and increasing consumption of coal. Many sorts of iron are now manufactured with preparations of coal, which formerly could only be worked with fires of wood. It is not improbable that the demand for coppice wood, will continue to decrease, in proportion as the art of making iron is better understood. Notwithstanding the constant decrease of oak-timber, this county is said to retain proportionably more than any other. Though great supplies have been sent to Bristol for ship-building, and the stockshave within the last thirty years, been considerably diminished, there is still sufficient remaining for domestic consumption, and for other markets. Underwoods are very extensive; they consist chiefly of oak, and the greater part are in such soils and situations as make the best return that could be expected. On the side of Shropshire near Bewdley in Worcestershire, is a large tract of underwood, fallen at eighteen or twenty-one years' growth, for converting into charcoal to make bar-iron. In one of these coppices, adjoining to a park at Kinlet, there have been trained up young timber-trees, that are very promising, and will make one of the finest woods of oak in the county. On the estates of Lord Clive, and of other proprietors, plantations have been raised for ornament. These consist chiefly of larch and fir and beech, as being of quickest growth; sometimes oaks are intermixed.

WASTE LAND. In comparison with many other counties, Shropshire may be called an inclosed one, particularly with respect to field-land. Of the commons that remain, few are of large extent. One of the most considerable is the Morsf, near Bridgenorth, which is five miles in length, and may be two or three in width, but on which inclosures are now making to a considerable extent. There are smaller commons, amounting to some hundred acres, not far from it, all of which are highly capable of improvement from inclosure. There are several large tracts of waste land in the road from Shrewsbury to Drayton;

these are of much inferior value, though they might be rendered profitable; on the very worst parts of them, the Scotch fir would thrive. The extensive commons between Church Stretton and Bishop's Castle, and beyond Clun to the borders of Radnorshire, are so elevated, and so well calculated for sheep-pastures, that, perhaps, they cannot be better occupied.

There were formerly large tracts of moor-lands, from near Boreatton to St. Martins, usually covered with water in the winter. These are now, in consequence of enclosures and drainage, at no great expense, rendered of considerable value. They were frequented by innumerable wild-fowl, which have, since the above improvement, entirely deserted them. Vast quantities were annually taken at the decoy near Whittington, the property of Mr. Lloyd, of Aston; which, being no longer of use, is now suffered to go out of repair, and will probably never again be resorted to. There are several large mosses in Shropshire, and a great number of smaller ones. The chief district of moor-land is that surrounding the village of Kinnersley.*

The public ROADS of Shropshire are tolerably good, and are in a general state of improvement; the parochial roads are very indifferent, and the mending of them is much neglected for want of proper surveyors. In many of the middle and southern parishes there is no tolerable horse-road whatever; and in some that have coal and lime, those articles are nearly useless, from the difficulty of bringing any carriage to them. Finger-posts are not sufficiently frequent, and they often suffer damage by the mischievous and unaccountable prejudices of the peasantry. The mile-stones, in general, seem to defy every attempt to deface them, the inscriptions being of cast iron fixed in the stone.

The RIVER Severn† is the principal river in Wales, and second only to the Thames, in England, belonging alternately to both countries,

* Archdeacon Plymley's Report, *passim*.

† Skrine on Rivers.

countries. Its principal source is a small lake on the eastern side of Plinlimmon, from whence it flows in a devious direction, under the name of the Hafren river, to Newtown, where it assumes its proper name of the Severn. Beyond Welsh Pool, at which place it becomes navigable for barges, it enters the great plain of Salop, and making considerable compass, turns abruptly to the south-east; it then almost encircles the town of Shrewsbury, pursuing the same direction till it has passed Coalbrook Dale, soon after which it flows southward to Bridgnorth, Bewdley, Worcester and Gloucester, dividing near the latter city into two channels, which re-uniting soon afterwards, constitute a great tide river. Its course below Gloucester is chiefly south-west, until it assumes the title of the Bristol Channel, and falls into the Atlantic Ocean. The navigation of this fine river, connecting North Wales with Shropshire, and Shropshire with the succeeding counties, in its course to the sea, is productive of immense advantage to the one under consideration. It has given value to its mines of iron, stone, lead, lime, and coal; and by encouraging manufacture, has drawn an immense accession of wealth and population to the district;* creating at the same time a great market for its agricultural produce, which, from the facility afforded for the conveyance of fuel and manure, is more than adequate to the demands of the increasing consumption. Yet, though the benefits accruing to the county from this noble river are confessedly great, there are inconveniences attending its navigation, which tend to impair and lessen them. The causes of these inconveniences are as follow: the fords and shoals frequent in a river whose bed has a considerable declivity, and consists of matter of very different qualities; the deficiency of water in drought, and the overflow in rainy seasons; and the mode of hauling barges by men instead of horses. The irregularities of the water have been greatly increased by the embankments which have been

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raised.

* Mr. Telford's Account of the Inland Navigation of Salop, in Archdeacon Plymley's Report, p, 234.

raised to protect the low lands in Montgomeryshire, and in the upper part of the county of Salop. Formerly, when the river had arrived at a moderate height, it overflowed those low lands to a great extent, which thereby operated as an immense reservoir, and took off the top waters of the high floods; and these waters returning to the bed of the river by slow degrees, proved a supply to the navigation for a long time after the flood began to subside; but being now confined to a narrow channel, they rise suddenly to a greater height, and flow off with more rapidity than formerly. Hence the navigation is at one time impeded by uncontrollable floods, and at another left destitute of a sufficiency for its ordinary purposes. To remedy these inconveniences, and thereby to improve the navigation, two plans have been suggested. The first is, the curing of the shallows which are in the river between Gloucester and Worcester, and the forming of locks and wears from Worcester upwards. The practicability of this improvement is shewn by the following statement of the distances and falls:

STATIONS.	<i>Distance in Miles.</i>	<i>Total Fall. ft. in.</i>	<i>Fall per Mile. ft. in.</i>
From Bildewas to Bridgenorth.....	11	29 6	2 8
From Bridgenorth to Stourport, Worces- tershire.....	18	41 9	2 4
From Stourport to Worcester	13	23 0	1 9
From Worcester to Gloucester.....	30	10 0	0 4

As a further recommendation of this plan, it is argued, that by the establishment of locks and wears, the water of the Severn might be turned to the working of corn-mills and iron forges, and relieve them from the precarious supply of trifling brooks, often dry in summer, and at all times inadequate in quantity.

The second plan is the formation of reservoirs for the reception of the flood-waters; the principal of them among the hills in Montgomeryshire, and the inferior ones in dingles, and other

other convenient places along the banks of the river. By this means the impetuosity of the floods might be greatly checked, and a reserve of water might be in constant readiness to regulate the navigation of the river in dry seasons, and to answer various purposes in agriculture and rural economy.

With regard to the mode of hauling barges, an obvious improvement would be the opening of a good towing path along the river, and the substitution of horses for men in this slavish labour. That this project is perfectly feasible, even on the most difficult banks, has been shewn by the laudable and successful experiment of Mr. Reynolds, of Ketley, who formed a path for horses near his manufactories at Coal-Port, and carried it on through rugged banks, and over some of the worst fords, for a distance of two miles, to the Iron Bridge.

The fish found in the Severn in its course through Shropshire, are salmon, pike, flounders, trout, grayling, and eels. There are also chub, roach, and dace, in great numbers. Shad also is found, and it is remarked, that fish of this species, caught in any other rivers than the Severn and the Wye, are scarcely eatable. There are also some lampreys in the Shropshire part of the Severn; in Worcestershire they are plentiful.

The principal tributary rivers are the Camlet, the Vyrnwey, the Tern, the Clun, the Ony, and the Teme. There are, besides, innumerable rivulets and streams, which adorn and fertilize the county.

The LAKES of Shropshire, though not numerous or extensive, form a variety in its landscapes rarely to be met with in those of the midland counties of England. That adjoining the town of Ellesmere covers 116 acres, and there are others in the neighbourhood of smaller extent. Near Whitchurch are also two meres. On the west side of the county is Marton Pool, containing upwards of forty-five acres. North of the Severn, besides the Ellesmere and Whitchurch meres, are Fennymere, Llynclyspool, and Ancot. At Shrawardine is a fine piece of
water,

water, covering about forty acres. South of the Severn, a few miles from Shrewsbury, is Beaumere, a small but beautiful lake, to which we shall hereafter have occasion to advert in our topographical detail. It is observable that the side of the county abounding most in running waters, has fewest pools of any size.

From the conveniences of carriage afforded by so fine a river as the Severn, this county was probably more tardy than others, in the introduction of navigable CANALS. The increasing demand for its mineral and agricultural products, however, created a necessity for devising some mode of conveyance to distant markets, more rapid and less expensive than land-carriage. The example of other counties had demonstrated the advantages of artificial navigation; and those derived from the Severn itself afforded arguments sufficient to justify the experiment. The coal and iron found in the immediate vicinity of that river, would be brought to market on lower terms than those produced in more distant districts; and it was obvious that nothing but a similar mode of conveyance was wanting to ensure to the latter a fair chance of competition. This was particularly evident in the instance of the coal and iron mines of Oaken Gates and Ketley. But it was found, that however advantageous a canal might be to these mines, there existed a formidable obstacle in the nature of the ground, and the project for cutting one was, for a long time, considered impracticable. The high, rugged, and insulated ridges over which it must necessarily pass, rendered it impossible to collect and reserve a sufficient quantity of water for the purposes of lockage, the only mode which had, at that time, been practised in Britain, for conveying boats from a higher to a lower level.

These difficulties might for ages have existed, had not the means of surmounting them been suggested by the bold and successful ingenuity of Mr. William Reynolds of Ketley. This gentleman having occasion to improve the mode of conveying
iron-stone

iron-stone and coals from the Oaken Gates to the iron works at Ketley, through a distance of a mile and a half, and a descent of seventy-three feet, made a navigable canal, and constructed an inclined plane, with a double iron rail-way, by means of which the loaded boat passing down, brought up another with a load nearly equal to one-third of its own weight. This inclined plane was completed in 1788. Its principle was soon discovered to be applicable to the situation of the ground which lay between the Oaken Gates and the Severn, and under this impression, a subscription having been entered into, an act of parliament was obtained for the Shropshire canal.

The general direction of this canal* is nearly from north to south: it commences on the north side of the London road from Shrewsbury, at a place called Donnington Wood, and proceeds about 100 yards on a level; it then ascends 120 feet, by an inclined plane of 320 yards in length. From the top of this inclined plane, (which is the summit level of the canal) it passes on through Wrockardine and Snedshill coal and ironstone works, and, near the Oaken Gates, is joined by the Ketley canal before-mentioned; from thence it goes on by the Holingswood iron-works, proceeds to Southall Bank, where a branch, striking off to the right, passes near to the Lightmore and Horsehay iron-works, and terminates at Brierly Hill, near to Coalbrook Dale. The main line of the canal, turning to the left at Southall Bank, goes on to the Windmill Farm, where it descends 126 feet, by an inclined plane 600 yards in length: from the bottom of this inclined plane it passes on to the east of Madeley, until it reaches the banks of the Severn, at about two miles below the iron bridge; here it descends 207 feet, by an inclined plane which is 350 yards in length; from the bottom of this inclined plane, it passes, parallel with the river, and on a level above the reach of the floods, to Coal Port, where it terminates.

On the completion of the Shropshire canal, another, of
consider-

* Mr. Telford's Account, ut sup.

considerably greater extent, was projected. The heavy expense attending the land-carriage of coal to Shrewsbury from the Oaken Gates had tended, from year to year, to raise the price of that article. The establishment of a canal appeared the most effectual means of checking this growing evil; and, at the same time, by passing through a tract of coal country, it promised the additional advantage of ensuring a more abundant supply to that market. These considerations, joined to the prospect of agricultural improvement, in the cheap and expeditious conveyance of lime and other manures, led to the formation of a company, which entered into a subscription, and obtained an act of parliament for making the Shrewsbury canal.

Having purchased about a mile of the north end of a short canal, cut by Mr. W. Reynolds, at the lower level at Wrockwardine Wood, in the direction of Ketley, the Shrewsbury Canal Company erected an inclined plane of 223 yards in length, and 75 feet of fall. From the termination of this plane the canal passes on by Eyton Mill to Long Lane, where it traverses a valley of considerable length, crosses the river Tern, at the height of 16 feet above the surface of the meadow, by means of an aqueduct and an embankment. Near this place it crosses the turnpike road, from Wellington to Shrewsbury, then passing on to Rodington, and over the river Roden, through Withington to near Ateham, it enters a tunnel of 970 yards in length; from the north end of the tunnel it continues along the base of Haghmond hill to Pimley, where it crosses a valley on a small aqueduct and embankment: thence passing along the banks of the Severn it terminates in a large bason and coal-yard at the isthmus leading into Shrewsbury, called the Castle Foregate.

The Ellesmere navigation may be called a system of canals, extending through that large and fertile tract of country, which lies between the banks of the Severn on the south, and those of the river Mersey on the north, and between the con-
fines

finest of North Wales on the west, and the borders of Staffordshire on the east, a space of fifty miles in length, and more than twenty in breadth, exclusive of the valleys which open into North Wales. Its grand object is to unite the Severn, the Dee, and the Mersey, and by that means to open a communication, from the abovementioned district to the ports of Liverpool and Bristol. The commercial advantages accruing from this connection of those rival ports, though very considerable, are only of minor importance, when compared with the beneficial effects resulting from the influence it will have on the agriculture of the interjacent country.

These happy consequences may be best exemplified by tracing the various branches of the navigation of Ellesmere, but as this is a subject of a comparatively local nature, we shall defer entering upon it until we come to treat of the topography of that town.

We ought not here to omit noticing a short canal, formed by the Marquis of STAFFORD, which commences at Donnington Wood, and proceeds on a level to Pave Lane, near Newport, a distance of about seven miles; with a branch to his Lordship's lime-works at Lilleshall. This canal was made for the purpose of conveying coals to the latter place, from his Lordship's works at Donnington, and to the wharf at Pave Lane, for public sale.

In districts where the inequalities of surface would not admit of canal navigation, another mode of conveyance has been adopted to a considerable extent, that of forming iron railways, on which articles are carried in waggons, containing from six to thirty cwt. This useful contrivance may be applied to every variety of uneven country, at a small expense, and from the simplicity of its principle, may be carried on in the most expeditious manner.

It is difficult to speak on so general a subject as the COMMERCE and MANUFACTURES of a county, without anticipating details which relate to the particular towns and districts where they

they are carried on. A principal branch of the commerce of Shropshire is the staple trade of Shrewsbury, in flannels and Welsh webs. The flannels are bought at Welsh Pool, in a market holden for that purpose, every other Monday. Most of these flannels are made in Montgomeryshire, and some are made, and more spun, in the neighbouring parts of Shropshire. The flannel in Pool market sells at from ninepence to four shillings per yard, in pieces of 100 yards long on an average. They are chiefly resold to the London merchants, who are the exporters. The webs are fabricated in Merionethshire and Denbighshire, and brought to Shrewsbury, where they are sold in a close market, that is in a hall, where none but members of the Draper's Company can enter; but of late years much of this market has been anticipated by buyers in the country, and the Shrewsbury drapers themselves are often forced to send thither; webs are about 200 yards long, and may be worth from one shilling to twenty pence per yard. The webs that are made in Merionethshire are about seven-eighths of a yard wide, and are called *Strong* or *High Country Cloth*. Those made in Denbighshire are called *Small* or *Low Country Cloth*. The former, after undergoing the processes of fulling and shearing, are exported in bales of different sizes. The ultimate markets are Holland, Germany, and America. The small cloth is about one-eighth of a yard narrower than the other; the web is the same length. Many of these are sold at Oswestry market, and are generally dyed before they are exported. They supply clothing for the slaves in the West Indies and South America. The manufacture in Wales, by means of jennies introduced into farms and private houses, has greatly increased of late years. The market at Pool was formerly engrossed by the Shrewsbury drapers, but at present it is attended also by tradesmen from Wrexham and other places. The wool of the country is insufficient for the manufacture. The extent of the trade cannot be accurately stated for want of data for a proper calculation.

Of MANUFACTURES, those of Ketley and other places in the iron district are the most considerable. Garden pots and other vessels, of a coarse fabric, are made at Broseley, which place is also noted for the manufacture of excellent tobacco-pipes. At Caughley, in that neighbourhood, is a china-manufacture of great excellence. At Coal Port coloured china of all sorts is made, and there is a manufacture of that species of earthenware, called the Queen's, or Wedgewood's Ware. The Lordship of Cardington, in this county, produces a quartz and clay, the former of which is said to be superior to that imported from Caernarvonshire, for the use of the Staffordshire potteries.

There are several mills for dying woollen cloth in this county; one of the most considerable is at Lebottewood, about nine miles north of Shrewsbury. In the neighbourhood of that town many branches of the linen trade are carried on, and a large manufactory of coarse linen, and linen thread, has been established there. At Coleham, or Coleman, is an extensive cotton factory, the internal economy of which, as it regards the morals of the individuals employed, forms an example worthy of adoption in all establishments of a similar kind.

The POPULATION of this county, according to the return made under the act of 41 George the Third, amounted to 167,639 persons. Since the period when this statement was made, the increase and flourishing state of the manufactures, and the uniform progress of agricultural improvement, have, no doubt, tended to augment the number of the inhabitants.

Shropshire sends twelve members to parliament; for the county, two; for the boroughs of Shrewsbury, Ludlow, Bridgnorth, Wenlock, and Bishop's Castle, two each. The principal landed proprietors, who have an influence in the representation, are the Earl of Powis, the Lords Bradford and Berwick, the Hills, the Corbets, and Col. Forester.

In concluding this general description, we may be allowed, without hazarding an innovation on the original design of this work,

work, to attempt a portraiture of the inhabitants of the county. No where can be found a more interesting picture of the genuine English character than that exhibited in the state of society in Salop. Its proximity and relation to Wales probably contributes to preserve the tone and heighten the colouring. The gentry are not, perhaps, wholly free from that species of pride, which, as it consists more in dignity than in haughtiness, may indeed be termed a failing, but can hardly be deemed a vice, especially because it does not tend to impede, but rather to encourage the exercise of those social virtues, which ameliorate the condition of the lower classes. The ladies of Salop rank eminently among the beauties of England, and are equally distinguished for those mental qualities, which give lustre to personal charms. The middling classes partake of the character of the higher orders; they are hospitable and intelligent. Their example and influence operate powerfully in improving the habits of the labouring poor, and in effacing those traces of barbarism and vulgarity, which are but too frequently the reproach of the common people of these kingdoms. The numerous charitable institutions, and the various respectable societies, for the promotion of useful science, established in the county, fully attest the truth of this eulogy; to which we may be justified in adding, that Shropshire, by its inland situation and the independent spirit of its inhabitants will, for a long time, present a formidable barrier to the corrupting inroads of foreign manners, and the no less pernicious progress of domestic luxury.

SHREWSBURY.

THE antiquity of this town is denoted by many ancient vestiges of British and Saxon architecture; and by the concurrent testimony of writers, who have delineated the warlike achievements of those nations; but its origin has not been determined

determined by any writer of established authority. It is generally supposed to have been founded in the fifth century, after the destruction of the Roman Uriconium, as a place likely to afford the harrassed and distracted Britons an asylum from the desolating incursions of their Saxon invaders. The eminence, on which it is built, was then called Pen-gwern, or "*the Head of Alder Groves*;" and when it was taken by the Saxons it received the synonymous name of Scrobbes-byrig, "*the Hill of Shrubs*." The ancient Welsh called it *Ymrwithig*, or the *Delight*, probably, observes Pennant, of its princes, and in this they have been followed by their descendants. After the Conquest the Normans, in endeavouring to accommodate many Saxon names to the genius of their own tongue, or to the peculiar nature of their pronounciation, gave this town the arbitrary names of Shrobbesbury, and Sloppesburie; from whence, by a similar process, incident to every language, have derived the words Shrewsbury and Salop, in Latin, Salopia.

This town is situated nearly in the centre of the county, of which it is the capital. It stands on two gently rising eminences, formed by the Severn into a most agreeable peninsula, which, when beheld from the adjacent country, has a bold and commanding appearance. The elevation of its site, the natural, and perhaps, consequent dryness of the soil, the purity and excellence of its water, to which may be added, the cleanliness and sobriety of its inhabitants, all contribute to give that salubrity to the air, for which it has been always celebrated.

When the Britons had established themselves on the Pengwern hill, they built a city, which, as has already been intimated, they called Pengwern. This soon became the capital of the Welsh Princes, being advantageously situated in that part of the division of Wales, called Powisland. The royal palace of Brochwel Yscithrog, who lived about the year 607, occupied the spot of ground, subsequently the site of the old

church of St. Chad.* This capital remained in the possession of the Britons many ages; till at length the destructive spirit and restless bravery of the Saxons compelled them to abandon the seat of their ancestors, and drove them to seek the preservation of their dignity and independence in the mountainous district of Mathrafael, in Montgomeryshire. We have already remarked, that, on the invasions by the Saxons, Pengwern Powis was called Scrobbes-byrig, and that it was considerably enlarged by its new possessors. In 1006, Ethelred kept the Christmas holidays at this place; and in the year 1016, the inhabitants revolted to the Danish chief Canute. They were, however, afterwards compelled to return to their natural allegiance, and were severely punished for their defection by Prince Edmund, son of Ethelred, afterwards King Edmund Ironside.

Alphelm, a prince of the blood, having been invited by Edric, duke of Mercia, and son-in-law to Ethelred, to a banquet at Shrewsbury, and afterwards to a hunting party, was basely murdered during the chase, by one Godwin Porthund, a butcher of the town, whom Edric had hired for that purpose. This circumstance probably gave rise to a custom, prevalent during the reign of Edward the Confessor, of keeping watch over the person of the king whenever he came to hunt in the neighbouring woods of these parts, which he sometimes did. In this reign Shrewsbury had two hundred and fifty-two houses, besides the mint,† which was under the direction of three officers, who were compelled to pay into the royal treasury twenty shillings at the end of every fifteen days while the money was current. There is a coin still in preservation having this inscription: *Edward Rex Angliæ*, and on the reverse, *Aelmaer on Scrobe*.

* Powel, 22. Pennant's Wales, Vol. III. p. 236, ed. 1810. See also an elegant and interesting little work, compiled with great care, and containing much valuable antiquarian research not found in Phillips's history, entitled, *Some Account of the Ancient and Present State of Shrewsbury*; it was published at that town in 1808.

† Domesday Book.

Scrobe. Domesday book, which mentions this fact, also takes particular notice of the following churches: St. Almund [Alkmund], St. Julian, Salton Church, St. Cead [Chad], and the monastery of St. Peter.

After the Norman conquest in the year 1067, or according to Rapin and Hume, 1069, Edric the Forester, with the aid of Owen Gwynedd, Prince of Wales, laid siege to Shrewsbury; but William the Conqueror, who had but just returned from a visit to his native country, in order to quell the rising tumults which every where began to threaten his British dominions, soon raised the siege, and punished, or cajoled the leading English chiefs, while he took ample vengeance on the Welsh. Edric, however, was one of the last to yield to the arms or the persuasions of the Norman monarch. He nevertheless obtained forgiveness from the mercenary clemency of William, and was afterwards restored to some degree of trust and favour.

In this reign, Roger de Montgomery, the favourite and relation of the Conqueror, was created Earl of Shrewsbury, Arundel, and Chichester, and had several very extensive grants made him, including, as has been already observed, nearly the whole of the county, besides an hundred and fifty-eight manors or lordships in other parts of the kingdom. In one of the deeds transferring these manorial grants, Roger styles himself, *Rogerus, dei gratiâ, Scrobesburiensis Comes*; Roger, by the grace of God, Earl of Shrewsbury.

In Domesday Survey, 1086, Shrewsbury is stiled a city, and the abbey is said to have been founded where the parish church of the city stood. This book also contains a summary of several municipal laws, customs, and usages, for the internal regulations of the police, and for increasing the king's revenues. The whole amount of annual taxes was 20*l.* of which the king had two thirds, and the sheriff one.

Hugh de Montgomery, who had succeeded his father Roger in the earldom of Shrewsbury, having been shot by an arrow, from the skilful hand of Magnus, King of Norway, was suc-

ceeded by his elder brother Robert de Belesme. In the character and conduct of this profligate tyrant, hereditary despotism, as is usually the case in all such irrational compacts, was more conspicuously manifest in vicious propensities than even in his accession to power and territory. Such instances as this make one lament that hereditary succession must rank among other necessary evils incident to every human establishment. Earl Robert united with that party who opposed the pretensions of Prince Henry, son of William Rufus, and espoused the more legal claims of Robert Duke of Normandy, who was just returned from the slaughter of the unoffending inhabitants of Jerusalem, still heated with the fire of superstition, and a more durable passion for the beautiful Sibylla; and who eventually lost the kingdom through the delays which his enthusiasm in the East and his amours in Italy, had occasioned. The settlement of Henry I. on the throne of his father did not abate the intemperate zeal of Robert de Belesme in the service of the Duke; and he was hence induced to speak in direct terms against the person and government of the king. He afterwards broke out in open rebellion, strengthened his castles in Shropshire, and at Shrewsbury built and fortified a flank wall, from each side of the castle, across the isthmus, down to the side of the Severn.

Upon this, the earl was publicly declared a traitor, and the king marched against him with a considerable force. The surrender of Bridgenorth to Henry, induced the earl to quit Shrewsbury, and to commit its defence to three generals and eighty soldiers, hired expressly for the purpose. With the assistance of a few Welsh, with whom he had made peace, he frequently disturbed the royal forces, till being much harrassed by William Pantulf, a Shropshire man whom he had formerly offended, he was compelled to return to Shrewsbury. Soon afterwards the town was beset with an army of 60,000 men; and Robert de Belesme had scarcely seated himself in the castle, when the king in a peremptory tone demanded the immediate surrender of

of that place, threatening, in case of refusal, in three days to besiege the town, and hang every one found in the castle. The earl perceiving that nothing was to be done, confessed his treason, implored the royal clemency, and sent the keys by the hands of Ralph, abbot of Seez, afterwards archbishop of Canterbury, which the king accepted, and banished the restless earl to Normandy, to the universal satisfaction of the people, who were glad to get rid of so troublesome an oppressor. No longer, however, within hearing of the king's threats, the spirit of revenge and ambition re-kindled in his breast, and he contrived once more to appear in arms against Henry; but was at length taken prisoner, and ignominiously conveyed in chains to England, where he ended a miserable life, a close prisoner at Wareham.

The rebellion of the earl commenced A. D. 1102, and in the year in which he died the king sent certain members of his privy council to Shrewsbury, on pretence of consulting Iorweth ap Blithyn, respecting the state of the royal affairs; but when this ill-fated Welshman arrived at the town, he was condemned for treason, and committed to prison.

We purposely omit the legend of the courageous Virgin, Wenefrede, whose bones are said to have been buried in the abbey at Shrewsbury, in the reign of King Stephen. The story of this extraordinary female has been detailed by Pennant, and cited by Phillips, the historian of this town, with a minuteness sufficiently correct to gratify and disgust the curious and the rational. It is proper, however, to notice a few circumstances, which are said to owe their origin to the tradition of this doubtful saint. One of the Abbey Foregate Fairs, kept on the 22d of June, O. S. we are informed, was established on the feast of Wenefrede's decollation. The other fair is kept on the feast of St. Peter *ad vincula*. Pennant says that a guild or fraternity was established at Shrewsbury, in honour of this miraculous female; and he describes its common seal, which he says, he had then in his possession, as a curious relique of a superstition,

superstition, from which religionists of modern times have, in this county at least, so happily emerged.

In 1139, William Fitz Alan, a powerful baron, was governor of the town, and sheriff of the county. During the wars between Stephen and the Empress Maude, this baron espoused the cause of the empress; and, with several noblemen, for some time opposed the forces of the king. He left the castle, which he had strongly fortified, under the command of a deputy-governor, whom he compelled to swear never to deliver his trust to the king. This, however, did not prevent the monarch from besieging and taking the castle; after which he hanged several of the garrison for their contumacy.

Fitz Alan fled, yet still maintained his adherence to the cause in which he had embarked; and when the empress's son, Henry II. succeeded to the crown, and took possession of the castle, he was restored to his government and estates, including the castles of Clun and Oswestry.

During the siege just mentioned, King Stephen granted to the abbey of Bildewas a charter of confirmation, dated *Apud Salopesbiriā in Obsidione, Anno Dom. 1139*. At Shrewsbury in the siege.

Early in the reign of King John, Gwynwynwyn, prince of Powis, came to Shrewsbury, to meet the English council, then assembled at that place, to decide upon the measures necessary to be adopted to counteract and oppose the sanguinary depredations of the Welsh on the borders. With a breach of confidence, and a want of generosity, happily unusual in modern times, the English council not only refused to listen to his pacific proposals, but detained him as a prisoner. A similar, but more inhuman act of courtly cruelty occurred soon afterwards, when the Welsh, having broken certain covenants for the due performance of which they had given as an hostage Rees the son of Maelgon, a boy under seven years of age, the English suffered or commanded a wretch of the name of Vepont, one of the king's friends, to take the infant hostage and hang him at Shrewsbury.

Shrewsbury. Nor was this the only instance of savage cruelty with which the character and reign of John was disgraced. It was reserved for the monarch who reluctantly signed Magna Charta, to thirst only for the blood of children, or to refuse refreshment till his vengeance had been satiated in the death of twenty-eight boys, which was the case on one occasion at Nottingham. These sanguinary deeds did not pass unnoticed by a just Providence. Three years after the last-mentioned perfidious act, 1215, Prince Llewellyn, of Wales, came to Shrewsbury at the head of a force, whose bravery had been signalized by many victories over the lords marchers, and had the town and castle delivered to him without any resistance.

This retributive triumph, however, did not long continue, for in 1220, we find Shrewsbury once more in the hands of the English. At this time Henry III. had succeeded the capricious and cruel John to the English throne; and it is pleasing to notice the difference in this monarch's disposition to that of his predecessor. In 1221, Henry sent for Llewellyn to Shrewsbury, and there decided a quarrel that had some time subsisted between that prince and Rees ap Grifffith. He had previously taken the son of Llewellyn under his protection.

In 1233, new feuds broke out between the English and the Welsh. The Earl of Pembroke and his associates took advantage of these events, and fleeing into Wales, joined Llewellyn. From thence, with their augmented force, they laid waste the marches between that country and Shrewsbury, in which last place they found great booty, and put the inhabitants to the sword. The king and his council, then assembled at Gloucester, determined, after much deliberation, as the wisest policy, to disarm the fury of the insurgents by offers of pardon, and to banish the Bishop of Winchester and Peter de Rivalis, the instigators of these new troubles, from the kingdom. These politic measures were accordingly successfully adopted; but, in the sequel, the Earl of Pembroke was treacherously killed by a stab in the back with a dagger, having been previously enticed

away into Ireland. It is therefore less surprising that this treaty also should be but of short duration. In 1241, the king marched in a hostile manner from Gloucester to Shrewsbury, where he remained fifteen days, designing from thence to proceed against David ap Llewellyn; but was stopped from pursuing this measure, by the timely submission of David.

In 1260, the English army rendezvoused at Shrewsbury; and shortly after, this town, with the castle, fell once more into the hands of rebels. They soon, however, reverted to their former owners, and about Michaelmas 1267, Henry again appeared at this place at the head of his army; designing to quell the new disturbances which the restless temper of Llewellyn occasioned. This resolution was obstructed by the mediation of the Pope's legate, and the submission of Llewellyn. In the fifty-third year of this reign, the government of the town and castle was conferred by the king on his eldest son Edward.

The repeated disturbances of the Welsh at length rendered it necessary to take some more effectual precautions for the peace and safety of the English; and, accordingly, the Court of Exchequer and King's Bench, in 1277, during the reign of Edward I, were removed to Shrewsbury, in which place they appear to have been held at least for some months. The Michaelmas term in the ensuing year was kept here.

The most remarkable event on record that next took place at this town, happened in 1283, when a writ was issued for assembling the parliament at Shrewsbury, for the express purpose of taking into consideration the measures necessary to be adopted with respect to the ungrateful and rebellious David, Prince of Wales, whom the king had received, when banished by his brother Llewellyn, and had moreover enriched him by many instances of royal beneficence. David, however, had never ceased to instigate his brother to war against the English, till he himself was taken prisoner and conveyed to Shrewsbury, where he was tried by the parliament, and by their advice condemned to be drawn about the town at the tail of a horse, then hanged, afterwards

afterwards quartered, his bowels burnt, his four quarters sent to York, Bristol, Northampton, and Winchester, and his head fixed near that of his brother Llewellyn, who had been slain in the battle, on the Tower of London. This ignominious sentence was rigidly executed; and thus ended the last of the race of the native princes of Wales, and with his death commenced a mode of execution exercised on traitors, disgraceful to humanity, and useless in its example.

During this parliament, the king and his court removed to Acton Burnell; and the lords and commons assembled there. Their lordships sat in the castle, and the honourable lower house in a barn belonging to the abbot of the monastery of St. Peter and St. Paul, at Shrewsbury. The honourable and right honourable members of later times have somewhat better accommodations.

During the revolt of the barons against Edward II. occasioned by his attachment to the Spencers, that monarch marched towards Wales with an army of thirty thousand men, being determined to compel the recal of his favourites from banishment. He was met on his way by the burgesses of Shrewsbury, who conducted him to the town with great pomp. He reduced the barons, seized their castles, and threw their persons into prison. About this time a tournament was held here, which was attended by all the knights and champions of the marches. In one of the combats, the famous Roger Mortimer Earl of March lost his life.

After the deposition of Edward, at the instigation of the queen and her paramour Mortimer, the vengeance of their party was severely felt by the few remaining adherents to the cause of the injured king. Edmund Fitz Alan, the most distinguished of these, was taken while seeking refuge among his tenants in Shropshire, by the people of Shrewsbury, who put him to death without the form of a trial. In gratitude for this piece of service, Mortimer, in the name of the imprisoned monarch, granted to the burgesses, whom he called "the
good

good men of Salop," all the goods and chattels found upon the earl.

In the 20th year of his reign, Richard II. honoured the town of Shrewsbury in assembling his parliament there, by adjournment from Westminster, which he declared was on account of the great love he had to these parts. On his arrival he gave a sumptuous feast to the peers and commons in the abbey of St. Peter and St. Paul. The parliament was held in the chapter-house, with great splendour, and so numerous were the members and their retinues, that Speed calls this "the great parliament." It was certainly an important one, for, among the articles of accusation afterwards brought against the king by Henry Bolingbroke, were the exorbitant and oppressive laws which it enacted.

In the succeeding reign, a bold attempt to recover their long-lost independence was made by the Welsh, under the renowned Owen Glyndwr. This extraordinary man was descended from the last native prince of Wales. He received his education in England, was appointed squire of the body to Richard II. and faithfully adhering to his master through every change of fortune, was taken with him in Flint castle. On the fall of the king, he retired with indignation to his paternal estates in North Wales. In the first year of Henry IV. some of those estates were seized by Lord Grey de Ruthyn, a partizan of the usurper. Owen sought redress by laying his case before parliament, which was dismissed without notice. He then had recourse to arms, and recovered his lands by force, laying waste those of his rival. Elevated by this success, he laid claim to the throne of Wales, and on the 20th of September, 1400, caused himself to be proclaimed prince. The Welshmen flocked to his standard, inspired by a superstitious veneration of his character, which he propagated by professing himself an adept in natural magic.

King Henry took early and vigorous measures to suppress this insurrection, and marched in person against Glyndwr. On issuing
his

his proclamation for the expedition to Wales, he sent orders to the bailiffs and good people of Shrewsbury to secure that important strong hold, enjoining them to compel all the Welsh residents, on pain of imprisonment, to find security for their loyal behaviour. He obtained no decisive advantage, and returned, as Falstaff says, "with some discomfort from Wales." In the course of a long and tedious war the Welsh chieftain engaged and defeated the tenants of the Earl of March, commanded by the king's uncle, Sir Edmund Mortimer. Affairs now began to wear a formidable aspect, and it was resolved to prosecute the war with greater vigour by invading the enemy from three different quarters. The rendezvous of the first army, commanded by the king in person, was at Shrewsbury; that of the second, under the Earls of Stafford and Warwick, at Hereford; that of the third, under the conduct of Prince Henry, at Chester. This invasion was more unfortunate than those which preceded it; the king's forces, having undergone every vicissitude of famine, sickness, and fatigue, in vain attempts to bring the hardy mountaineers to action, were compelled to make an inglorious and disgraceful retreat.

The next memorable event on record, relative to Shrewsbury, is the battle which terminated the revolt of the Percies of Northumberland, against Henry the Fourth. The origin of their quarrel was a mandate from the monarch to the earl not to ransom his Scottish prisoners taken at Holmedon, which that nobleman deemed an infringement on his rights. The jealous policy of Henry in this proceeding, and his ingratitude for the services which raised him to the throne, roused the indignation of Northumberland, and inflamed the high soul of his son, Lord Henry Percy, whose warlike and active disposition had gained him the characteristic appellation of Hotspur. Thomas Earl of Worcester, younger brother to Northumberland, participated in their discontents, entered into their views of revenge, and proffered his assistance in overthrowing the usurper whom they had united to establish. Hotspur, who was the life of the
conspiracy,

conspiracy, took the readiest means to bring it to issue. He released and made a friend of his valiant rival and prisoner, Douglas, entered into a correspondence with Glyndwr, and reared the standard of rebellion, round which all his vassals and adherents rallied. He was joined by a powerful levy from Scotland under Earl Douglas and other chiefs, who, won by his example, and impelled by a rooted animosity to the king of England, warmly espoused the cause of the conspirators. When all was in readiness for open war, the earl of Northumberland was suddenly taken ill at Berwick; Lord Percy took command of the army, and advanced to Stafford, where he was joined by his uncle Worcester. Having consulted on their affairs and inspirited their army by an harangue on the justice and glory of the cause, they directed their march towards Wales, in order to effect a junction with Glyndwr. Henry, who was apprized of their movements, placed himself at the head of a body of troops, which had been destined to act against the Scots, and was then posted at Burton on Trent; with this army he hurried into Shropshire, having previously ordered his sons, the Prince of Wales and Lord John of Lancaster, and his steady adherent, the Earl of Westmorland, to meet him with reinforcements at Bridgenorth. Aware that every thing depended on celerity of movement, he took possession of Shrewsbury just as the forces of Lord Percy were preparing to assail it. Meantime, Glyndwr having mustered at Oswestry a numerous levy of Welshmen, had sent off a detachment of four thousand; but on being apprized of the king's success, thought proper to suspend the march of his main body. The gallant leaders of the rebel army, undismayed by this failure of succour, by the protracted illness of Northumberland, and by the tardy arrival of aid from other quarters, determined to give battle immediately. On the evening of the 21st of July, 1403, in answer to an offer of pardon, they sent a defiance to the king, grounded on certain charges in justification of their revolt. These have been so ably summed up by Shakespeare, that we quote his words in preference

to those of the chronicler on whose authority he composed them.

HOTSPUR.

The king is kind ; and well we know, the king
 Knows at what time to promise, when to pay.
 My father, and my uncle, and myself,
 Did give him that same royalty he wears :
 And—when he was not six-and-twenty strong,
 Sick in the world's regard, wretched and low,
 A poor, unminded outlaw, sneaking home,—
 My father gave him welcome to the shore :
 And,—when he heard him swear, and vow to God,
 He came but to be Duke of Lancaster
 To sue his livery * and beg his peace ;
 With tears of innocency and terms of zeal,—
 My father, in kind heart and pity moved,
 Swore him assistance, and perform'd it too.
 Now, when the lords and barons of the realm
 Perceived Northumberland did lean to him,
 The more and less came in with cap and knee ;
 Met him in boroughs, cities, villages ;
 Attended him on bridges, stood in lanes,
 Laid gifts before him, proffered him their oaths,
 Gave him their heirs ; as pages followed him ;
 Even at the heels in golden multitudes.
 He, presently,—as greatness knows itself,—
 Steps me a little higher than his vow,
 Made to my father, while his blood was poor
 Upon the naked shore at Ravenspurg ;
 And now, forsooth, takes on him to reform
 Some certain edicts, and some strait decrees,
 That lie too heavy on the commonwealth !
 Cries out upon abuses, seems to weep
 Over his country's wrongs ; and by this face,
 This seeming brow of justice, did he win

The

* This is a law phrase belonging to the feudal tenures, meaning to sue out, the delivery or possession of his lands from those persons who on the death of any of the tenants of the crown, seized their lands, till the heir sued out his livery. STEEVEN'S SHAKESPEARE.

The hearts of all that he did angle for :
 Proceeded further ; cut me off the heads
 Of all the favourites, that the absent king
 In deputation left behind him here,
 When he was personal in the Irish war.

* * * * *

In short time after, he deposed the king ;
 Soon after that, deprived him of his life ;
 And in the neck of that, task'd the whole state :
 To make that worse, suffered his kinsman March
 (Who is, if every owner were well placed
 Indeed his king,) to be incaged in Wales,
 There, without ransom to lie forfeited :
 Disgrac'd me in my happy victories ;
 Sought to entrap me by intelligence ;
 Rated my uncle from the council-board ;
 In rage dismissed my father from the court ;
 Broke oath on oath, committed wrong on wrong :
 And in conclusion, drove us to seek out
 This head of safety ; and withal to pry
 Into his title, the which we find
 Too indirect for long continuance.

A declaration so decisive and hostile closed every prospect which the king might entertain of a compromise, and left no chance for a termination of the quarrel, but by an appeal to arms. Had the valour of Hotspur been tempered by discretion, he would have paused on this last resort, until the junction of his ally had given him better assurance of success. His army was indeed already equal in number to that under the royal standard, and it had the superior advantage of being commanded by two of the bravest captains of the age. His confidence in his own prowess, and his experience of that of his compeer, Douglas, banished every doubt of victory from his mind. His ardour, however, was damped by the transient impression of an incident, which strongly exemplifies the universal superstition of the times. In preparing for the field he called for his favourite sword, when he was informed that he

had

had left it at the village of *Berwick*, near Shrewsbury, where he had rested the preceding night. The name of the place startled him, and heaving a deep sigh, he exclaimed, "Alas! then my death is near at hand, for a wizard once told me, that I should not long live after I had seen *Berwick*, which I thought was the town in the north, so called.—Yet will I not be cheaply won."*

On the morrow, being the eve of St. Magdalene, July 22, 1403, both armies were ready for action. The field, on which they were to contend, was an open plain, extending north of Shrewsbury, before which town the king had drawn out and encamped the greater part of his forces. The battle commenced at dawn, in a place called Bullfield, a short distance from the north gate. Percy had stationed a body of his choice troops amidst some acres of ripe peas, in order to check the advance of his adversary's heavy-armed infantry. A flourish of trumpets, mingling with the contending shouts of "St. George and Victory!" and "Esperance Percy!" was the signal of onset, which was answered by a tremendous discharge of arrows from both lines. The Scots, who had the van in the confederate army, attacked the king's centre with great fury, and threw it into disorder, but he hastening with fresh succour, rallied his broken troops, and recovered their ground. He displayed a degree of courage and constancy worthy of the important stake for which he fought, frequently exposing himself in the thickest of the battle, which indeed he might the more safely do, since he had, with his usual precaution, diminished the chances of personal danger, by investing several officers in regal habiliments. Events soon proved the prudence of this stratagem: Percy sought him in every quarter of the field, and Douglas with equal impetuosity slew three of these mock-monarchs with his own hand. The fight soon became general, and extending from *Berwick* westward, to the vicinity of *Haghmon Abbey*, in the east, continued for
three

* Otterbourne.

three hours with various success. The undaunted bravery and valour of the king, were nobly seconded by the valour of his son, prince Henry, who that day performed his noviciate in arms, in a manner which atoned for the profligacy of his former life, and gave earnest of the future glory of Agincourt. The Scottish champion, seconded by Hotspur, made another furious assault on the royal station, slew Sir Walter Blount, the standard-bearer, and came nearly within sword's point of the monarch, who fled for his life. Thus foiled in their repeated attempts, the confederate chiefs, carried away by the rage of lions, broke into the ranks of the enemy, with an impetuosity that their followers were unable to support. In one of these charges, while victory was inclining strongly in his favour, Hotspur was shot through the brain by an arrow, from an unknown hand; he fell gloriously in the midst of his foes. This circumstance rendered it difficult to conceal the news of his death, which some knights of his party in vain tried to do, by exclaiming, "The King is slain, long live Percy!" Henry, at this moment returning to the charge, cried out, "The King lives; Percy is slain—St. George and Victory!" The fate of the hero being thus proclaimed, entirely turned the fortune of the field; his army gave way on all sides, and a total rout ensued.

Douglas fled with precipitation, but being hotly pursued, he was thrown from his horse while taking a desperate leap on Haghmond hill, and seized by the enemy. The Earl of Worcester was also taken prisoner. A gallant body of knights and gentlemen of Cheshire, whose loyalty to king Richard had united them to the avengers of his murder, were overtaken and cut to pieces. Of the brave Scots, who were ever foremost in the fight, few were left alive. Henry having with difficulty put a period to the slaughter, and abated the ardour of pursuit, halted to return thanks for his victory on the field of battle, which he sanctified and commemorated by decreeing the erection of the collegiate church of Battlefield.

We shall scarcely find, observes Hume, any battle in those ages, where the shock was more terrible and more constant. There are said to have fallen, on both sides, nearly two thousand three hundred gentlemen, but the persons of greatest distinction were on that of the king: the Earl of Stafford, Sir Hugh Shirley, Sir Nicholas Gausel, Sir Hugh Mortimer, Sir John Massey, Sir John Calverly. About six thousand private men perished, of whom two-thirds were of Percy's army. The havoc among the king's leaders may be ascribed to the personal prowess of Hotspur and Douglas, while the carnage which generally follows defeat may account for the excessive loss of common soldiers on their side.

The pious gratitude of the victorious monarch, but ill accorded with the severe punishment he subsequently inflicted on some of the vanquished: the Earl of Worcester, Sir Theobald Trussel, and Sir Richard Vernon, were executed at the high cross at Shrewsbury, and their heads exposed to public view on London bridge. Hotspur's body, which was found among the slain, and had been delivered to Lord Furnival for interment, was by the royal order taken from the grave, and placed between two mill-stones, in the market-place, after which it was quartered, and hung on the gates of Shrewsbury, and in other places of the kingdom. The lenity shewn to others of the rebels was plainly the result of Henry's policy, rather than of his mercy. He courteously released Douglas without ransom, because he feared that the Scots would have dreadfully avenged the death of a man so dear to them, and from similar motives, he afterwards accepted the proffered submission of Northumberland.

The army of Glyndwr, amounting to twelve thousand men, had remained inactive at Oswestry during the battle. There is a tradition that he himself quitted that place in disguise, and hastening to Shrewsbury, hid himself in a gigantic oak, which commanded a full view of the field; and that after witnessing the discomfiture of his friends, returning with speed to Oswestry,

he withdrew his forces into Wales, whither he was pursued by Prince Henry. In evidence of this tradition an aged and decayed trunk of a tree, at a short distance from Shrewsbury, by some called the Shelton Oak, and by others Glyndwr's Observatory, is still shown, and by many persons venerated as an interesting monument of the Cambrian Chief.

An event so interesting as the battle of Shrewsbury can scarcely be found in the annals of this country, nor could there well be conceived a nobler theme for the lay of a minstrel. The characters of the leaders both of the royal and of the rebel party, the chivalrous spirit of the times in which they lived, and the magnitude of the cause that roused them to arms, are circumstances highly susceptible of poetical description, while the train of incidents from the very origin to the termination of the feud, is of that romantic cast which requires little embellishment from fiction. There is indeed one objection which may have deterred our later Poets from the undertaking; it is, that the ground which Shakespeare has trod is sacred; but without any violation of the reverence due to his memory, it may be wished that this magnificent subject had also been celebrated by the muse that sung the tale of Flodden Field.

During the contest of the Houses of York and Lancaster, in which the crimes of Henry were visited on his posterity of the second and third generation, and a civil war of nearly half a century deluged England with blood, to the almost total extirpation of her ancient nobility, the town of Shrewsbury espoused the party of the White Rose. In the records of the corporation is preserved a letter from Richard, Duke of York, requesting the burgesses to assist him with men, in the enterprise he meditated of removing his rival Somerset from power. After his defeat and death at Wakefield, his son Edward, Earl of March, went to Shrewsbury, and obtained in its neighbourhood a powerful levy, which enabled him to avenge his father's cause, in the great victory of Mortimer's cross. He was shortly afterwards proclaimed king. The great strength
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of the town, and the steady attachment of its inhabitants, induced him to choose it as an asylum for his queen, during the subsequent vicissitudes of the war. Whilst she resided in Shrewsbury she twice lay-in at the convent of the Black Friars, and was delivered of Richard and George Plantagenet. The latter died young; and the former, with his elder brother, prince Edward, was, according to history, murdered in the tower, at the instigation of their uncle the protector; but in the opinion of Horace Walpole, he was the identical Perkin Warbeck, who was executed in the reign of Henry the Seventh.

Shortly after the usurpation of the crown, by Richard the Third, his agent, the Duke of Buckingham, deserted him, and fled to Wales, where he took up arms, and endeavoured to excite a general insurrection against the tyrant, whom he had formerly served. An extraordinary flood of the Severn hindered his junction with the forces of his friends at Gloucester, and entirely dispersed the army of Welshmen, which he had raised. Being abandoned by all his followers, he fled in disguise to Shropshire, and concealed himself in the house of one Banister, his steward, who, tempted by the price offered for his apprehension, betrayed him to John Mitton, sheriff of the county. He was taken to Shrewsbury*, where, by the king's peremptory order, and without trial, he was executed on a scaffold erected before the high cross.

The atrocious and cruel despotism of Richard soon alienated the hearts of his subjects, and disposed them to receive his rival Richmond, with open arms. That prince of "the blood of Lancaster," landed at Milford haven, on the 7th of August, 1485, with a force of about 2000 men, and directed his route

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towards

* The majority of our historians, on the authority of the Croyland Chronicle, make Salisbury the scene of Buckingham's execution, but the diligent writer of the Account of Shrewsbury is inclined to follow Hall, in ascribing it to this town. He gives a just reason for this hypothesis, by remarking that Salisbury was anciently written Saresbury, the ambiguous enunciation of which word would easily occasion a misnomer.

towards North Wales and the Marches. The Welsh, who regarded him as their countryman, flocked to his standard, and gave him every assurance of support. Having mustered his army on the Long Mountain in Montgomeryshire, he resumed his march towards Nottingham, where Richard was posted, and advanced to Shrewsbury. On summoning the town, he was unexpectedly refused admittance by the head-bailiff, and a curious conference ensued, of which an account is given in a manuscript belonging to the school-library.—“The head-bailey, Maister Myttoon, being a stout wyse gentilman, on demand being made of entrance, answered, sayinge that he knew no kynge but only kynge Richard, whose lyffetenants he and hys fellows were; and before he should entir there, he should go over his belly, meaninge thereby, that he should be slayne to the ground and that he protested vehemently on the othe he had tacken; but on better advice Maister Myttoon permitted the kynge to pass; but to save hys othe, the sayd Myttoon lay along the ground, and hys belly upwards, and soe the said erle stepped over hym and saved hys othe.”*

The earl was first proclaimed king on his entrance into Shrewsbury; the inhabitants testifying their joy at his coming, and their vows for his success, by adorning their doors with green boughs, and by strewing flowers in the streets. Two thousand tenants of the Earl of Shrewsbury, under his uncle Sir Gilbert Talbot, joined him immediately, and his army, with this and other reinforcements, marched for Leicestershire, where they achieved the decisive victory of Bosworth Field. During

* Many pleasant constructions are put upon this adventure of the “stoute wyse gentilman Maister Myttoon.” It is conjectured that he had his first interview with Earl Henry after dinner, and that the second took place in the morning, when he had slept off the fumes of the Shrewsbury ale, which made him so valiant. In this case, the penance to which he submitted to save his oath was *properly* applied, though it must be allowed that this way of furthering the steps of Earl Henry to the crown, went *against his stomach*.

ing their halt at Shrewsbury, they are supposed to have infected the inhabitants with a pestilence more fatal than the sword, the sweating sickness. The mortality which it occasioned at different periods for sixty years in various parts of the kingdom, almost exceeds belief; in some places it carried off a third of the people; in others, scarcely one in a hundred escaped contagion. It began and ended in this town; but, contrary to the progressive abatement of its fury in other places, the later attacks here were equally destructive with those which marked its origin, scarcely fewer than a thousand being carried off by them in a few days.

In 1488, when quietly established on the throne, Henry the Seventh, paid a visit to Shrewsbury, in testimony of his gratitude, for its services to his cause; and in 1490, he, with his queen and prince Arthur, were present at a solemn festival, and attended mass in the collegiate church of St. Chad. Five years afterwards Henry again visited the town, and was nobly entertained in the castle by the corporation.

This town was not honoured with any other royal visit, nor, indeed, does it appear, that any material circumstance took place till the year 1642, when the ill-fated Charles the First came hither from Nottingham at the head of his army, which was here amply reinforced and provisioned. The King was joined by Prince Rupert, Prince Charles, the Duke of York, and many other noblemen and gentlemen of the neighbouring counties; who volunteered their "lives and fortunes" in the royal service, in a manner worthy the cause of a monarch more deserving such support. Charles set up a mint here, at which were coined money for his use, from the voluntary contributions of plate which were sent in by the inhabitants and others. The universities of Oxford and Cambridge contributed largely in this way to the royal exigencies. A purse of gold from one Thomas Lyster procured him the honours of knighthood; and Sir Richard Newport's 600*l.* and loyalty were amply repaid by the substantial dignities attached to the titles

of a baron of England, and Lord Newport, of High Ercall. The corporation, shortly after this, filed a bill in chancery against Richard Gibbons, late mayor, Thomas Challoner, schoolmaster, the sons of Robert Betton deceased, late senior alderman, and Richard Berrington, senior common-councilman, who kept the keys of the free-school chest, to recover the sum of 600*l.* which they had surreptitiously taken from the funds of the charity, and lent to his Majesty. It is unnecessary to add, that this bill was dismissed without any relief. It is equally needless to observe that this just appeal of charity to loyalty required only the moderate term of eleven years before the right honourable the commissioners of the Great Seal could decide even on its rejection. Noble minds perform acts of injustice, though sometimes "necessary" for the good of the state, with tardy reluctance. What, however, of justice was wanting to the plaintiffs in this cause was made up in gratitude and gracious promises by the royal receiver, who had given his note of hand, prefaced with many condescending assurances of thankfulness, and payable on demand, to refund the money whenever it should be called for. And if these favours were not sufficient, Charles confirmed and enlarged the charter of Queen Elizabeth, which made the town a body corporate. He moreover repaired the castle gates, pulled down many houses near the castle, and brought the water from the Severn up to the gate, by means of a deep ditch, over which he placed a draw-bridge. He also built a strong fort at the upper end of Frankwell. In this fort and in the castle he planted cannon, and made it a strong place*.

In 1643 Sir Fulke Hunkes was appointed governor. He was related to the celebrated Richard Baxter, who represents him as "too much of a soldier, and too civil" to please many of the king's friends. He was soon removed, to make room for Sir Richard Otteley, who was succeeded by Sir Michael Earnley.

* Gough's MS.

Earnley. This latter gentleman, during the storming of the town by the parliament forces, in 1644, had command of the garrison. At this time Colonel Mitton, a soldier of great valour and good conduct, was governor of a small garrison at Wem, and general of Cromwell's army in this county. He was also one of the representatives in parliament for the town of Shrewsbury, and had a strong desire to reduce his constituents to obedience to his party. Having made two unsuccessful attempts, on the night of the 3d of February, he came with his forces, consisting of two hundred and fifty foot, and the same number of horse, of the Staffordshire forces, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Rinking: The horse were commanded by Colonel Mitton. These marched towards Shrewsbury, where they arrived about three o'clock on the Saturday morning.

The town was well fortified, and strongly pallisadoed; eight carpenters went up the river in a little boat, and landed within the enemy's breast-work, under the castle-hill, on the east-side. The sentinels, after some pause, fired upon them; but they soon sawed down so many of the pallisadoes as gave the men free passage.

The first that stormed were forty-two troopers dismounted, with their pistols, and about as many firelocks. They were led on by the Rev. Mr. Huson, a puritan preacher, Captain Willers, and Lieutenant Benbow. After these followed some other musquetteers along the side of the Severn, under the Castle Hill, and entered the town at the Water-lane Gate. After these, marched three hundred and fifty infantry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Rinking. Having entered the streets of the town, they marched to the market-place, surprised the main guard, and put the captain to death. The rest marched to the Castle Foregate, which was also soon gained; the guard having basely deserted it. The town being now in the possession of the enemy, they let down the draw-bridge, near the Castle, and the horse immediately entered under the command of

Colonels

Colonels Mitton and Bowyer. It was now day-light, and the consternation of the inhabitants was excessive at beholding the enemy in the very heart of that town, which, on retiring to rest the preceding night, they thought the most secure in the island. About twelve o'clock, the castle, after a feeble resistance, surrendered, on condition that the English part of it should march to Ludlow, and the Irish be left at the disposal of Colonel Mitton. At this time, the governor, Sir Michael Earnley, was confined by sickness to his bed; but waked by the noise of the tumult, he sprang up at the moment the enemy were rushing into his chamber. This officer, although weakened by sickness, and convinced that all was lost, with astonishing courage, or culpable fool-hardiness, refused to submit to the conquerors, and rejecting all quarter, wantonly perished,* covered more with wounds than with glory; since true courage is distinct from rashness, and ceases to act when reason and superior force demand submission. It is for those who have no other conception of honour than as it leads to the shedding of blood, to denominate that conduct glorious which often would be more aptly designated by the term suicide.

The loss in killed and wounded, on both sides, was inconsiderable; but the prisoners and property seized by the victors, were of great importance; and the plunder of the tradesmen's goods ruined many of them; though Colonel Mitton used every precaution to prevent it. For the services of this day the general received the thanks of parliament, and was made governor of the castle. The late Lieutenant-governor, Crow, was tried by a court-martial at Gloucester, and afterwards hanged, for negligence and cowardice, in suffering the place to be surprised without his having made a suitable resistance. Prince Maurice, the whole of whose magazine fell into the hands of the victor, made his escape but just previous to the surrender of the castle. The judicious author of *Some Account*

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* Phillips numbers the governor among the prisoners.

of *Shrewsbury*, whose work we have already referred to, and often consulted, successfully controverts an assertion of Baxter's, that the king knew not of this signal loss till after his defeat at Naseby, when the distracted monarch, proposing to seek refuge in his faithful town of *Shrewsbury*, was reluctantly told, by his courtiers, that it no longer remained in his possession. By the loss of this important station *, the royal communication with North Wales was cut off, and a check put to a plan, formed by the united counties of Salop, Worcester, Chester, and Flint, to augment the king's forces.

In the commencement of this unnatural contest between the king and the parliament, Colonel John Benbow †, uncle to the celebrated admirable Benbow, of naval memory, united with the parliament forces; but afterwards deserting his principles, or disgusted with the cant of his associates, espoused the cause of the arbitrary and injured monarch. He distinguished himself in opposing his quondam friends at the taking of *Shrewsbury*, for which vacillating conduct he was condemned by the parliament, and shot on the green before the castle, October 15, 1651. He is said to have died with great firmness. Probably, principles of loyalty even to a tyrannical, but lawful sovereign, are much better to die with, than those sentiments, which in urging reform, overstep the boundaries of right, and propagate anarchy and rebellion.

In 1654, Sir Thomas Harris, with a zeal much better meant than directed, rendered himself conspicuous by joining in an unsuccessful attempt to surprise the castle, in order to favour the restoration of the itinerant monarch, Charles the Second. For his injurious services in this affair Sir Thomas was made to suffer most severely.

Another

* See the curious and interesting posthumous *Memoirs of General Ludlow*. He was one of the members of the High Court of Justice which sentenced Charles the First to the scaffold.

† Vide ante, p. 71.

Another attempt was made to reduce this town to loyal obedience after the death of the hypocrite Cromwell, and the restoration of the long parliament; but though the spirit of loyalty and the love of monarchy were by no means extinguished in many of the inhabitants, the exertions of Captain Edmund Waringe, the governor of the castle, secured the place in the interests of the parliament.

If the doubtful and unwilling testimony of such a wretch as Colonel Romsay may be received—a wretch on whose head lies the blood of the virtuous and patriotic Russel—the ridiculous farce of the Rye-House plot had involved in its measures this town as one of those places necessary to be seized in attempting to destroy the person of the king, and subvert the order of monarchy; but history or narrative founded on such authority, deserves little credit. This fact, however, has been, somewhat doubtingly, mentioned in a work to which we have more than once adverted.

The last royal visit to the town, and the last circumstance particularly worthy of notice in what has been denominated its ancient history, happened on the 25th of August, 1687, when James the Second passed a day here, and kept his court at the council house. Those sentiments of loyal attachment for which Shrewsbury has ever been conspicuous, burst forth, on this occasion, with chivalrous enthusiasm. They blazed in bonfires and illuminations, and literally ran through the streets in torrents of wine; the public conduits being charged with this royal liquid.

While Shrewsbury ranks high among our ancient provincial capitals from the eventful importance of its history, it is no less eminent in the beauties of its situation and prospects. Being seated on a circular peninsula of considerable elevation, formed by a winding of the Severn, it presents at every approach a pleasing variety of view; and the noble sweep of the river, which seems to embrace it, heightens at every turn the charm of the scene.

scene. Hence it might deserve the simile applied by Shakspeare to England, "a precious stone set in silver." The exterior range of houses which front from the town, in many places, command, to a fine extent, the rich and beautiful landscapes of the surrounding country. The stately spires of two venerable churches, and the massive towers of the castle, give an imposing grandeur to the whole, and impress the spectator with those sentiments of awe which are inseparable from the contemplation of antiquity.

On the western side of the town is a public promenade, called the Quarry, which occupies a tract of ground of about twenty acres, gradually sloping to the verge of the Severn. The principal walk is a noble avenue of lime-trees, extending along the river side for more than five hundred yards on a level terrace. Three other shaded walks, one from each end, and one from the middle of this avenue, lead up to the town. In the intermediate space, on the remains of an old stone quarry, there is a bold clump of horse-chesnut and lime-trees, which tends to relieve the uniformity of this regular plantation. The opposite bank of the Severn rises abruptly to a considerable eminence, on which stands the House of Industry. Adjacent to it are some plantations, which greatly adorn the scene. But the proximity of this steep ascent, and the thick shade of the trees, cast a constant gloom over the Quarry, and render it more like the garden of a convent, than the gay pleasure-ground of a populous town. As a retired and agreeable summer walk, its cool and sequestered situation, its noble avenues of trees, its fine verdure, and its vicinity to the river, give it a decided advantage over the gardens of Kensington. It is, however, but little frequented, except by soldiers and washer-women, being chiefly used as a convenient spot for drilling recruits and drying linen. The ground was planted and laid out during the mayoralty of Henry Jenks, in the year 1719.

Unhappily, the interior of Shrewsbury by no means corresponds with its external beauty. The streets are intricately disposed, many of them steep and narrow, and all indifferently paved.

paved. They exhibit a strange contrast of ancient and modern building, and are as uncouth in names as they are in appearance. The inferiority of the town in regular construction, to others of equal note of consequence, may be ascribed to the circumstance of its never having suffered from conflagration, and the inhabitants may well be content to pay for so happy an exemption, at the price of many inconveniences.

Shrewsbury is a corporation by prescription, and has received grants of charters and immunities from various successive kings of England. The first charter is said to have been given by Henry the First. By that of King John, the burgesses were empowered to elect two bailiffs, or *præpositi*, who held their offices during their good behaviour. Their principal business appears to have been the receiving of the rent of the town for the king. Edward the Third conferred on the bailiffs the power of magistrates, and enabled them to hold sessions. In the 12th of Richard the Second, the burgesses were empowered to choose twelve aldermen, for the better government of the town. Charles the First united the offices of bailiff into that of mayor, and established the corporation in the form in which it has since continued. It consists of a mayor, recorder, steward, town-clerk, twenty-four aldermen, forty-eight common-councilmen, and the usual retinue of inferior officers. Four general quarter sessions are held in the course of the year, and the mayor and some of the aldermen, who are magistrates, attend in the Exchequer every Tuesday, to administer public justice.

There are sixteen other chartered companies, the most considerable of which are the drapers and mercers. They were both incorporated by Edward the Fourth.

In ancient times, while the Romish religion prevailed, all the companies united once a year in celebrating the day of Corpus Christi, with great pomp and splendour. At the reformation this ceremony was commuted for another, held on the second Monday after Trinity Sunday, which is still continued, though with less pomp and circumstance than formerly. The companies

companies form themselves into processions, headed severally by men on horseback in gaudy apparel, called kings, probably as representatives of the monarchs who granted their charters. They move in marshalled array to Kingsland, where they are met by the mayor and corporation, and the day is spent in festivity. Many of the companies have ceased to form part of this annual pageant, and it is a matter of regret, that a custom, displaying so lively a picture of old English manners, should be suffered to die away.

Of the public edifices of Shrewsbury, that which claims the first attention in point of consequence is the CASTLE, situated on a steep bank of brown earth, on the neck of the peninsula formed by the Severn. The obvious importance of the spot as a strong hold, induced the Britons, or the Saxons, to throw up a circular mount, with walls and ditches; and on the traces of their rude fortification, Roger de Montgomery, the Norman, laid the foundation of the present structure. He is said to have cleared away fifty-one houses to make room for this work, without the smallest indemnity to the inhabitants. This castle was the seat of his baronial power, and continued in the possession of his descendants until the reign of Henry the First, when, by the forfeiture of Robert de Belesme, it became a royal fortress, and was entrusted to the keeping of a constable, who maintained the county prison within its walls. The vast territories appended to it were conferred on various knights, on condition of their performing castle-ward for a certain number of days in time of war. After the final submission of the Welsh, being no longer necessary as a military station, it gradually fell to decay. It was leased by Queen Elizabeth to Richard Onslow for a mark yearly; and he, in all likelihood, transferred his interest in it to the corporation. During the civil wars of Charles the First, it was repaired and garrisoned for the king, and when taken by the parliament forces in 1645, was exempted from the general demolition of royal fortresses, by being intrusted to Colonel Mitton. On his resignation, Colonel Mackworth had

charge of it, and he was succeeded by Colonel Hunt. After the restoration, it reverted to the burgesses, who in 1663, surrendered it to the king, and he presented it to Lord Newport, afterwards Earl of Bradford. In the reign of James the Second, it was stripped of its cannon, muskets, and ammunition; and, probably, at the same time the out-works were razed, and its ancient chapel destroyed. Of later years it came into the possession of Sir William Pulteney, who put it into a proper state of repair. It is now the property of Lord Darlington.

Little idea of its former grandeur can be formed by an inspection of its present state. The remaining buildings consist of the keep, the walls of the inner court, and the great arch of the interior gate. The keep is a square building of 100 feet, connecting with two round towers of equal diameters, embattled and pierced. The entrance opens upon a modern stone staircase, a corner of the vestibule being occupied by a statue of Earl Roger. The staircase leads to the principal apartments, all of which, except a circular eating-room, are on the first and second floors. The drawing-room, which in the time of Charles the First, was called the guard-chamber, is very spacious and handsome. An obscure stone stair-case within the wall, leads to an apartment in the western tower, in which was a recess, having a strong groined ceiling and sharp-pointed windows. The walls of this building are ten feet in thickness, and its beams of vast dimensions.

The area of the court is now converted into a garden, on a circular grass-plot of which the knights of the shire, according to ancient custom, are girt with their swords by the sheriffs, on assuming their office. The battlements of the western wall are pierced with cruciform loop-holes, which have a characteristic appearance. The arch of the gateway, doubtless a part of the original castle of Earl Roger, is eighteen feet high, semicircularly with plain round facings. On the other side of the court is a postern, built probably in the time of Charles the First, when the castle was re-fortified, and near it are the massive foundations

foundations of an ancient tower. Contiguous to the south side of the court, and included within it, is a lofty mount, which rises abruptly from the verge of the Severn. Round the summit is a ruined wall; on one corner of it was a small watch-tower, which has of late been re-built, and now forms a delightful prospect-room, commanding a truly panoramic view. The immediate objects are, the grand sweep of the Severn, on which the lofty edifices on opposite sides of its banks are seen at once; the spires and towers of the four churches, rising proudly from among the inferior buildings of the town, the suburb of the Abbey Foregate with its ancient church, and the two bridges across the Severn, one east and one west of the peninsula, comprehended, on this commanding elevation, almost in the same point of view. From this diversified prospect the eye ranges over the fertile plain of Salop, which forms the area to a magnificent amphitheatre of hills and mountains. On the north are distinguished the gently rising eminences of Grinshill, Pymhill, Hawkstone, Haghmond, &c.; extending the survey eastward, the majestic and venerable Wrekin bursts upon the view; it is connected with the Lawley and Caradoc, by the humbler hills of Acton Burnel and Frodesley, beyond which peers the lofty head of the Brown Clee. The high ridges of the Longwynd, Stiperstones, and Long Mountain, form an uninterrupted chain along the Welsh border, with the bold and abrupt acclivities of the Cefn y Castell, the Moel y Golfaf, and the Breidden, the latter of which gives its name to the groupe, and is crowned with an obelisk in honour of Lord Rodney. The horizon thence, is terminated by the stupendous range of the Berwyn mountains, hiding their blue summits in the clouds. This harmonizing contrast of hill and plain, enlivened as it is by occasional glimpses of the winding Severn, forms a landscape delightfully grand, and amply justifies the elogy of the ancient British poet, who, after beholding this fair region from the height of Charlton Hill, rapturously hailed it as the paradise of Cymru.*

* Cambria.

This ancient castle having long been private property, retains but one appendage of its former dignity, when held by the sheriffs for the crown :—the knights of the shire are always chosen within its walls.

Shrewsbury, though the most important station on the Welsh marches, and though frequently thrown into the possession of its enemies, never sustained more than two sieges. Its natural and artificial strength might probably deter an adverse army from investing it in a regular way, for it was protected not only by its castle, but by a WALL fenced with towers which completely surrounded it.

The first stone rampart extended only across the isthmus to the river on each side, and was raised by Robert de Belesme. In the reign of Henry the Third, the inhabitants of Shrewsbury, having suffered greatly during the Rebellion of the Earl of Pembroke, were exhorted to secure themselves by building a wall entirely round the town, which, by the aid of the royal bounty, was accomplished in thirty-two years. An additional rampart, by order of Oliver Cromwell, was constructed, as it is said, from the materials of Shrawarardine Castle, and extended from the wall of Earl Robert at the river's brink, to the Welsh bridge. Though now ruinous, it forms a good connecting path between the northern and western ends of the town. Of the old ramparts, those on the northern and eastern sides of Shrewsbury, have long since disappeared; their foundations, which are easily to be traced, form the ground work of modern houses. On the south a considerable portion remains, and is kept in repair as a public walk; but it retains little of its original appearance, having been considerably lowered, and entirely stripped of its battlements. The towers have all been taken down except one, which stands on this wall between the bottom of Swan Hill and the end of the street called Belmont. It is square and embattled, and had two stories, the entrance of the higher being from the top of the wall, through a small pointed arch, which does not appear of older date than the time of Henry the Fourth. The town, according to Leland, who beheld fortifications entire,

ture, was more than a mile in compass ; which extent may probably be a third more in modern computation.

There were formerly three principal GATES to Shrewsbury ; one near the castle called the North Gate, and one on each of the bridges ; that on the east called the Abbey Gate, and that on the west the Welsh Gate. They are all now taken down.

The old Welsh Bridge was a stately specimen of the fortified bridge of ancient and warlike times ; and was, indeed, considered the chief architectural ornament of the town. It consisted of seven arches, and had gates at each end, in the finest style of castellated building. That on the Welsh side of the Severn was secured by a strong outwork ; and for the purpose of guarding the ford below, the battlements nearest it were raised to a great height and pierced with loop holes. Over the gate was a massive square tower, with its herse, and machicolated battlements. The chamber above it served, in later times, as a guard-house for soldiers. This tower was taken down about the year 1770. The gate nearest the town stood on the bridge, within one arch of its extremity, and was uncommonly beautiful. Its arch, on the north side, constructed in the most graceful manner of the pointed style, was furnished with a portcullis, and doors studded with iron ; above it was a chamber lighted by a narrow window, and over that a machicolated battlement, peculiarly deep, and projecting much from the walls. In a canopied nich in the centre of this, was the statue of a knight in complete armour, resting one hand on his breast and pointing with the other to a device carved on a corbeil below, which was three roses on a stalk. The surtout was emblazoned with the arms of England and France quarterly. Many varying and erroneous conjectures formerly prevailed respecting this statue, but it is now understood, by the most judicious antiquaries, to represent Richard Duke of York, the father of Edward the Fourth, and the once popular favourite and patron of Shrewsbury. The device of three roses on a stem, probably denoting his sons Edward, George, and Richard, corresponds with that found on his

seals; and as he was the only prince of his family who ever used it, this circumstance amounts to a proof that the statue was designed for him.—On one side of the nich was a shield with the arms of England and France quarterly, and on the other, those of the corporation. To each angle of the tower there was a singularly elegant turret, the basis resting on the piers of the bridge. The side of this gate which fronted the town was equally beautiful, though of an entirely different structure; having been probably one of the earliest attempts made in the kingdom towards the revival of the Grecian and Roman style of architecture. The great opening was square, without an arch. Above was a lofty embattled tower, the front of which was adorned by two composite twisted columns, rudely designed, resting on scrolls, having a circular headed nich between, and supporting a regular entablature, frieze, and cornice. On the left hand, on a mantle, was a shield with the arms of the corporation, enclosed within fluted pilasters, and on the other, a patera charged with the cross of St. George. This front was erected in the year 1539; the other, from the dissimilarity of the styles, was evidently the production of a much earlier period. In 1791, this beautiful and curious gate being considered as endangering the safety of the bridge, was demolished by order of the corporation, to the regret of every lover of antiquities, and of every person of taste acquainted with the transaction. This regret, however, sooner or later was inevitable, for the bridge itself, being always inconvenient, and having at length become ruinous, was shortly afterwards taken down. The statue and shields belonging to the gate had been preserved, and were placed in conspicuous situations at the end of the market-house. The tolls arising from the transit of marketable goods through the gates, were abolished by the payment of £6000 to the corporation, which sum was raised by public subscription. Soon afterwards a fund of £8000 was procured in a similar way, the corporation advancing £4000, for the rebuilding of the Welsh bridge, which was completed in 1795. It is a convenient and substantial structure, consisting of
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five elegant arches, the whole length being 266 feet, the breadth 30, and the height 30. A quay, faced with stone, connects it with the town, at the end of the street called Mardol, and is lined with warehouses. The approaches to the other end, in the suburb of Frankwell, are unsightly and inconvenient, and but ill accord with so handsome an edifice.

The original English, or East Bridge, was probably the joint work of the abbots and burgesses, but the period of its erection is uncertain. It was constructed on seventeen arches in different styles and of various dimensions. Within two arches of the eastern extremity, was a gate and strong embattled tower, with its chamber and portcullis, and beyond it a drawbridge. When the tower was taken down in 1765, several materials were found in it, which apparently belonged to the ruins of the neighbouring Abbey.

This bridge was not more than twelve feet wide, and was moreover encumbered with houses, which occupied nearly the whole of the northern parapet, rendering the passage highly inconvenient, if not dangerous; a subscription was therefore entered into, in 1765, for widening it, according to a plan given by Mr. Mylne, the architect of Black Friars Bridge. Some progress was made in the work, but contributions flowed in so freely that it was determined to remove the old bridge entirely, and erect a new one, according to a plan furnished by Mr. Gwyn, a native of Shrewsbury. The first stone was laid on the 25th of June, 1769, by Sir John Astley, Bart., who gave £1000 towards the work. The whole cost amounted to upwards of £16,000. Thus, while in cities of greater commercial importance no public works of great extent have been carried on, without the exaction of tolls and contributions, the inhabitants of this town and county, to their immortal honour, erected two noble bridges, by which the trade of the adjacent districts was freed from the burthen of a vexatious tax, at a total expence of full £30,000, the whole of which was raised by voluntary subscription. This is one among the numerous instances of that

public spirit, which, as we have elsewhere observed, is a leading characteristic of the Salopians.

The extent of the bridge is 400 feet. It is built of the fine stone of the Grinshill quarry, on seven semicircular arches, crowned with a fine ballustrade. The central arch is 60 feet in width, and 40 in height from the low-water mark; the two arches at the extremities are 35 feet wide and 20 high. The breadth between the ballustrade is 25 feet. The best view of this elegant edifice is from the Ludlow road, where the whole is seen without obstruction; while a fine background, formed by the buildings on the eminence beyond, the remains of the castle, the bold summit of its mount, and the stately spire of St. Mary's Church, gives it a picturesque and almost unique effect. Perhaps, in the construction of the bridge, utility was sacrificed to ornament; for, owing to the great height of the centre arch, the road over it has an ascent and descent rather steep, and inconvenient. It has been observed, that the intention of the architect in giving this capacity to the centre, was to afford a freer vent to the frequent floods of the Severn.

Of the ECCLESIASTICAL ANTIQUITIES of Shrewsbury, a very brief description would suffice, if we were to be guided by the vestiges that at present remain; but the records relating to them so fully attest the former splendour of this important town, that we consider a summary of them essential to our undertaking. The researches of the gentleman whose work* has been our leading authority in the foregoing topographical account, are on this subject peculiarly valuable: and the style in which they are written exhibits an agreeable contrast to the dull prosing which abounds in many disquisitions of a similar kind.

The origin of the Abbey of St. Peter and St. Paul, which stood on the eastern banks of the Severn, in the suburb which still bears its name, is involved in obscurity. It is certain, that in the time of the Saxons, a church stood on or near this spot, and a community of monks and nuns might probably be united
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* Now well known to be the production of the Rev. Hugh Owen, A. M., F. A. S., of Shrewsbury.

to it. The Danes, during their ravages in the ninth century, plundered and depopulated monastic institutions, and this, it is conjectured, fell with the rest. After the quiet settlement of the kingdom under Edgar, many of the Abbey churches, which had till then lain desolate, were taken possession of by secular priests, who, swerving from the strictness of monastic discipline, were generally married, and engaged in the active concerns of society. Such, apparently, was the state of the monastery of Shrewsbury at the time of the Norman invasion. The church, then a rude edifice of wood, was governed by Odelirius, a priest, who, as archpresbyter or dean, presided over a college of married secular clergy. Its district was called the parish of the City. There can be no doubt that at this period it was collegiate; for afterwards, when the Abbey was founded, it was agreed that the portion of each prebendary, at the death of the incumbent, should revert to the monks of the new Abbey. This was the cause of much litigation; it being customary for ecclesiastic livings to descend as by inheritance to the next of blood. Such claims were abolished by the statute of Henry the First. In the seminary belonging to this ancient church, a priest, named Seward, is mentioned as an eminent teacher; and to him the historian Ordericus Vitalis, son of Odelirius, owed his education.

When Roger de Montgomery took possession of his territories in Shropshire, he determined to refound the monasteries, and to introduce into them the monks of his favourite order of St. Benedict. He obtained the land on which the monastery of Shrewsbury stood from Segward, a Saxon nobleman, and in 1083 laid the foundation of a magnificent Abbey, which, when finished, was re-dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, the patrons of the ancient monastery. He endowed it liberally, and instigated his vassals, the neighbouring nobility, to enrich it with ample donations. It might seem that he was thus preparing for himself a penance for his sins; for, afterwards, with the consent of his Countess Adelaisa, he retired to the holy solitude of his monastery, and received the tonsure and habit of a monk; on which occasion,

occasion he presented the fraternity with the tunic of Hugh, the sainted Abbot of Cluni. In the immediate prospect of his dissolution, he invested himself with this precious relic, thus exemplifying the pitiable superstition to which our divine poet alludes :

Or they who, to be sure of Paradise,
Dying, put on the weeds of Dominic,
Or, in Franciscan, think to pass disguised.

In times of darkness and ignorance, the transition from the palace to the cloister excites little surprise ; but when we advert to a more enlightened age, and recognize in the Emperor Charles the Fifth, the same impulse which actuated Earl Roger, we cannot but wonder at the pious sophistry of that monarch in seeking to atone by solitary penance, for the disturbances which his ambition had created among mankind.

When Hugh the Red, the second son of Roger, succeeded to the earldom of Shrewsbury, he paid a solemn visit to the Abbey to do homage at the tomb of his father, on which occasion, though of a profligate and cruel character, he added greatly to the endowments of the institution ; and, among other gifts, conferred on the monks the tythe of all the venison of his forests in Shropshire, that of Wenlock excepted. The rules of the order forbid us to suppose that this grant could administer to the luxury of the Benedictines, for they were equally bound to mortify their appetites, and to perform the duties of an unbounded hospitality. The barons who attended Earl Hugh, imitated his munificence, and conferred large estates on the Abbey. By these and other acquisitions, the revenues of the house were greatly enriched,* and the Abbot obtained the honour of ranking among those spiritual barons who sat and voted in Parliament, had the authority of bishops within their house, wore the mitre, sandals, and gloves ; carried silver crosiers in their hands,

* Of the 608 monasteries that were in the kingdom at the time of the dissolution, that of Shrewsbury was the 34th in opulence.

hands,* gave the episcopal benediction, conferred the lesser orders, and in some instances were exempt from all authority of the diocesan. It is uncertain when the Abbey of Shrewsbury received these high functions, but as the Abbot is mentioned among the spiritual lords who voted in the Parliament of the 49th Henry the Third, they must have been conferred before the year 1265.

In the days of King Stephen, when the popular passion for relics had attained an unbounded extravagance, the monks of Shrewsbury determined not to be behind-hand with their brethren in availing themselves of so fruitful a source of opulence. After ransacking the legends of Wales for a subject, they at length had the good fortune to pitch upon one sufficiently absurd for their purpose. The body of the chaste virgin Wenefrede,† whose decapitation and recapitation, with the marvels attending them, had given her a high rank in the calendar of Saints, lay interred in the church of Gwytherin, in Denbighshire, the place where she died. After much fruitless negotiation with the priest and the people of Gwytherin, Herbert, the Abbot of Shrewsbury, procured an order from Henry the First, for the translation of the sacred dust to his monastery. The Welshmen honoured their saint more than the king, and turned a deaf ear alike to entreaties and menaces. The Salopian monks persevering in their purpose, held a chapter, in which Robert Pennant,‡ their prior, a Denbighshire man, who is supposed to have fabricated the whole legend, was commissioned to make a pilgrimage to Gwytherin, and to leave no expedient untried for obtaining possession of the relics. Assisted by a priest of Wales, two clever monks of his abbey, and the prior of Chester, he practised on the credulity of the Welsh, by pretended visions and divine warnings; the prize

* These crociera were badges of the *pastoral* functions. The form and the substance were contradictory emblems of humility and pride.

† Vide Ante, p. 53.

‡ He was of the ancestry of that intelligent traveller and able physiologist, Thomas Pennant, Esq.

prize was given up, and the delegates returned with it in triumph to Shrewsbury. It was enshrined with great pomp and solemnity, near the high altar of St. Peter and St. Paul. The speculation of the monks was completely successful; multitudes of pilgrims flocked with gifts to the shrine, and even nobles contended who should offer the richest donations.

One of the most remarkable persons whom this house produced, was Robert of Shrewsbury, a monk, who was promoted to the see of Bangor, in the reign of Henry II. His influence in Wales excited the jealousy of King John, who imprisoned him in his own cathedral, and for his ransom obliged him to pay three hundred hawks. This eminent prelate, it is said, by his will, ordered his body to be buried, not in his cathedral church, but in the middle of the market place of Shrewsbury.* So extraordinary a deviation from the popular modes of thinking, is ascribed by Fuller, either to the bishop's extreme humility, as esteeming himself unworthy to lie in consecrated ground; or to a conviction, that in those times of tumult his body would be more at rest in a common street, than within the walls of a church.

At the dissolution in 1513, when the property and possessions of this monastery fell to the crown, it appears that Henry VIII. had chosen Shrewsbury for the foundation of one of his new bishoprics. The abbey-church was to have been converted into a cathedral; part of the revenues were destined for the support of the bishop, and Dr. Bouchier, the last abbot of Leicester, was absolutely nominated to that dignity. But the treasures of Henry were squandered as rapidly as they were

* The bishop could not surely be actuated by the motives which dictated the following clause in the will of the American general, Charles Lee:—"I desire most earnestly that I may not be buried in any church, or church-yard, or within a mile of any Presbyterian or Anabaptist meeting-house; for, since I have resided in this country, I have kept so much bad company when living, that I do not chuse to continue it when dead."

were amassed, and his exigencies soon compelled him to abandon this as well as other measures of public benefit which he had projected. The bailiffs and principal inhabitants of Shrewsbury in vain petitioned him to spare the buildings of the monastery; Langley, a tailor of the town, who had purchased them, in order to make the most of his property, demolished the greater part of the fabric, and sold its materials. He is said even to have stripped the nave of its lead, and to have attempted to sell the bells in the western tower; but these were claimed by the parishioners, who at length recovered them by legal process.

There are very few remains of the Abbey. Its cloister, refectory, chapter-house, &c. are entirely destroyed. The ancient embattled wall, which encircles the precinct, is nearly entire on the eastern and northern sides, and presents a venerable appearance on the approach to Shrewsbury by the London road. A mansion house, with its gardens and fishpond, occupies the space within the ancient inclosure, containing about nine acres. The house itself consists partly of monastic remains, and, by modern improvements, has been converted into a handsome residence. There are some remains of out-buildings near the Meole Brook, and on the side of the street, which were probably the inferior appendages of this religious establishment.

The most interesting portion of the ruins is a little octagonal structure, six feet in diameter, which is generally called the **STONE PULPIT**. It stands on the south side of the garden. Some broken steps which did not originally belong to it, lead through a narrow flat-arched door to the inside. The south part stands upon a portion of the ruined wall, from which the corresponding side, projecting considerably, rests upon a single corbel, terminating in a head. From this point it gradually spreads, with a variety of delicately ribbed mouldings, until it forms the basement under the floor. The whole is crowned by an obtuse dome of stone-work at about eight feet from the

the base, supported on six narrow-pointed arches, rising from pillars similar to the mullions of windows. One of the remaining sides of the octagon is a solid blank wall, and the other contains the door. The roof, within, is vaulted on eight ribs which spring from the wall immediately under the cavity of the dome. At their crossing in the centre is a boss, bearing a representation of the crucifixion, considerably relieved. The spaces between the divisions of the three northern arches, are filled up, four feet above the base, with stone pannels, over which they are entirely open, and the light thus introduced is productive of a beautiful effect. On the centre pannel is a rich piece of sculpture, seemingly designed to represent the annunciation. The right-hand pannel bears the images of St. Peter and St. Paul, with appropriate symbols; that on the left has two figures in monastic habits; one a female, the other a monk. The arches on the southern side are without ornaments, and are now quite open to within two feet of the floor. The beauty of this singular fragment, which is conceived not to be older than the time of Henry the Seventh, is much heightened by its thick mantle of luxuriant ivy, and by the mellow tint of its grey stone, distinguishing it from the deep red hue of the other remains of the Abbey.

The most probable of the many conjectures respecting the use of this structure, is, that it was the pulpit of the refectory, from which, by the rule of St. Benedict, one of the junior brethren was enjoined to read or recite aloud a subject of divinity to the monks during dinner, a custom which still prevails in some of our college-halls at the universities. The fragment on which it rests, is conceived to have been the south wall of the refectory, from which it projected into the interior. There is a stone pulpit somewhat similar to this in the refectory of the abbey of Beaulieu.

The abbey church in its present state presents few features of its ancient grandeur. Three-fourths of it were demolished at the dissolution; and of the choir, chapels, transept, and centre.

centre steeple, scarcely a wreck remains. The nave, the western tower, and the northern porch, are still standing, but in a deplorable state of mutilation. The nave, or great western aisle, was in very early times appropriated to the use of the neighbouring inhabitants, who were in general servants of the Abbey. It was called the parish church of the Holy Cross, within the monastery of St. Peter of Salop. For this reason it was spared in the general destruction of the fabric, and is now one of the parochial churches of the town, retaining its denomination of the Holy Cross. Though the beauty of the church has suffered equally from dilapidation and repair, yet it may be traced in some of its parts. The great western tower is a plain but well proportioned structure. Its portal has a round Norman arch, deeply recessed, and another of a pointed form, inserted within it at a subsequent period. Above this, is a noble window which occupies the entire breadth, and nearly the whole height, of the tower. Its arched head is sharp pointed, and filled with a profusion of uncommon and delicate tracery. Between the double bell-window in front, is the figure of an armed knight, within a nich, supposed to represent Edward the Third. The enriched parapet and pinnacles, which once crowned the tower, are now vilely supplied by a mean battlement of brick work.

The interior of the church has an air of majestic simplicity. The ancient nave has five arches on each side, all of which, except the two nearest the tower, are semicircular, and rest on huge, round, short pillars, quite plain. There is an east window of painted glass, of late erection, in the center compartments of which are figures of St. Peter and St. Paul; above are the arms of the see of Lichfield, of the founder of the Abbey, and of Lord Berwick, the munificent donor of the window; on each side are escutcheons of the vicars from the year 1500. An organ placed on a handsome Gothic screen adorns the western end. Within an arch, which once led to the south wing of the transept, is an ancient figure clad in mail, recovered from the ruins of the monastery, and placed in its present situation by order of
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the heralds at arms, in their visitation of the county in 1633. Their inscription over the figure declares it, perhaps erroneously, to represent Roger de Montgomery, the founder. There are few other ancient tombs remaining.*

The church of ST. GILES stands at the eastern extremity of the Abbey Foregate suburb. It is a small plain building, bearing marks of considerable antiquity. It consists of a nave, chancel, and north aisle, with a diminutive turret, which once held a single bell. It is now chiefly used for sepulture, and as public worship is only performed twice a year within its walls, it exhibits a deplorable spectacle of neglect, damp and decay. Among the

* In the year 1728, a curious dispute arose between Mr. Latham, the then vicar, and the parishioners, respecting a picture of the crucifixion, which the former had procured to be removed from the church. The petition of the parishioners against its removal being rejected, several severe lampoons passed on both sides, of which the following are specimens;

The parson's the man,
Let him say what he can,
Will, for gain, leave his God in the lurch,
Could Iscariot do more,
Had it been in his power,
Than to turn his Lord out of the church.

THE REPLY.

The Lord I adore,
Is mighty in power,
The one only living and true,
But that lord of yours,
Which was turn'd out of doors,
Had just as much knowledge as you,
But since you bemoan
This god of your own,
Chear up, my disconsolate brother,
Though it seems very odd,
Yet if this be your god,
Mr. Burley† can make you another.

† A Painter in Shrewsbury.

the tombstones in the church-yard is one, which is said to cover the ashes of Mr. John Whitfield, a skilful surgeon of Shrewsbury. It is without name or date, and its inscription is the very quintessence of chemical brevity :

COMPOSITA SOLVANTUR.

An expression of resignation to the Divine will, to which something like a parallel may be found in the celebrated passage from Shakespeare, which has been chosen for the epitaph of its immortal author :

The great globe itself,
And all which it inherit shall dissolve.——

The suburb of the Abbey Foregate, which constitutes almost the whole parish of the Holy cross and St. Giles, is a long wide straggling street, which stands on the brow of a gentle eminence sloping on the south to Meole brook. There are a few good houses which command beautiful views of the fine meadows below, with gardens bordering on the stream. The ancient arched aqueduct, from an excellent spring in the fields near St. Giles's, to the monastery, still affords the Abbey-house and its neighbourhood, a copious supply.

The old collegiate church of ST. CHAD, of which only a small part, called the chapel, now remains, was founded by one of the kings of Mercia, on the site of the palace of the British princes, soon after the expulsion of the Welsh from this their ancient capital. Its patron saint was a native of Northumberland, who converted the idolatrous east Saxons to Christianity, and became their bishop, about the middle of the seventh century. A dean, ten prebendaries, and a certain number of vicars choral, were placed in the church by its founder, under the patronage of the bishop of Lichfield. The college was dissolved in the second of Edward the Sixth ; its buildings were leased out, and its property, consisting chiefly of tythes, remained in the crown until the reign of Queen Elizabeth, except a certain portion which was granted to found the free school. The office of cu-

rate, or parish priest, to which a small stipend was paid by the dean, out of his prebendal estate at Onslow, was alone suffered to remain.

Respecting the various changes which this ancient edifice must have undergone, during a period of near 1000 years, few notices have been preserved. In the year 1393, a considerable part of it was consumed by a fire, occasioned by the carelessness of a plumber, who, alarmed at the conflagration, endeavoured to escape over the ford of the Severn, and was drowned.* The damage was so extensive, that the inhabitants obtained from Richard the Second a remission of certain taxes to enable them to repair it.

In this church, at a very early period, the doctrines of the Reformation were promulged. William Thorpe, a priest, and a zealous disciple of Wickliffe, obtained leave in the year 1407 to deliver a sermon on a Sunday, before the principal inhabitants, in which he took occasion to expose the corruptions of the Romish church. The bailiffs of the town preferred charges of heresy and sedition against him to the archbishop of Canterbury, who brought him to trial, and endeavoured by threats of punishment and promises of pardon to silence him. The reply of the reformer to the menaces of the prelate deserves to be recorded for its heroic intrepidity: "I tell you at one word, that I dare not, *for the dread of God*, submit unto you, notwithstanding the tenure and sentence you have rehearsed to me." He was remanded to prison, but his subsequent fate is not known.

The progress of the Reformation effected a wonderful change in the minds of men; in the first year of Edward the Sixth the bailiffs of Shrewsbury, whose predecessors had denounced one of its boldest champions as a heretic, ordered the pictures and superstitious ornaments of St. Chad's to be publicly burnt; and in the twenty-sixth of Elizabeth, the service of the church of England was solemnly established there.

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* Mr. Lloyd's MS. History of Shropshire, cited by Pennant.

The misfortune which befel this venerable structure, in 1788, is a strong instance of the mischiefs occasioned by the interment of the dead in the interior of the places of worship. Early in the year, one of the four pillars which supported the tower in the centre of the church, shrunk in so alarming a manner, as to endanger the safety of the fabric. An architect of the town, who was consulted on the occasion, advised, that the whole of the tower should be taken down, in order to relieve the shattered pillar and other decayed parts from its incumbent weight, after which a thorough repair might be securely performed. The parish vestry rejecting this advice, employed a mason in the rash attempt of under-building the pillar. The second evening after the work was commenced, the sexton, on attempting to raise the great bell, felt the tower shake violently, and was pelted with a shower of broken mortar. In great hurry and trepidation he descended into the church, from which he secured as much furniture as he could carry away. On the following morning, July 9th, when the clock had struck four, the decayed pillar gave way; the tower was instantly rent asunder, and falling with its heavy peal of bells upon the roof of the church, sunk with a great part of the building, in one tremendous crash, to the ground.

The ruins on the following day presented an awful spectacle. The roof of the spacious nave, with the north range of pillars that supported it, together with a great portion of the outward walls on that side, and the north wing of the transept, lay in confused heaps, mingled with the shattered remains of pews, pulpit, organ, monuments, and bells broken and dispersed, in a thousand forms. The south side of the tower still remained, and part of the beams hung from the tottering walls, threatening instant destruction to those who should approach them. The whole row of pillars on the south side of the nave had stood the shock, but appeared every moment about to mingle with the wreck below. The chancel, and the north wing of the transept sustained but little injury. Among the rubbish, of which the inside of the walls consisted, were found many

pieces of Saxon sculpture, which had probably belonged to the ancient church, and were used in the repairs after the fire in 1393. Any attempt at rebuilding the edifice being now deemed unadvisable, the remaining fragments were taken down with all possible dispatch, in order to prevent further mischief. The fine stained glass of the west window having fortunately escaped destruction, was carefully preserved and afterwards placed in the communion window of St. Mary's church, which it exactly fitted. The figure of St. Chad, in his episcopal vestments, which stood on the summit of the organ, was also preserved, and is now placed in the vestry-room of the new church.

Such funeral monuments as could be rescued from the ruins, were placed at the disposal of the families to whom they belonged, and those which were not taken elsewhere, were removed to the chapel before mentioned. This was originally dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and after the Reformation was denominated the Bishop's Chancel. In 1571, it was rebuilt by Humphrey Onslow, Esq. being the burying place of his family; and it is now chiefly used for reading the funeral service over those who have preferred the ancient cemetery, or whose families had burial places in it. One of the most remarkable of these monuments is that over Sir Richard Onslow, an eminent lawyer, and speaker of the house of commons in the eighth of Queen Elizabeth. It is worthy of note, that he was the ancestor of Sir Richard, afterwards Lord Onslow, who filled the chair of the house of commons in the eighth of Queen Anne, and also of Arthur Onslow, called by eminence Speaker Onslow, who so ably exercised that office during many successive parliaments. There is a small tablet to the memory of that truly excellent man, the Reverend Job Orton. He was interred here pursuant to his express desire, in the same grave with Mr. Bryan, a former minister of this church, who quitted his benefice on the Act of Uniformity.*

Among

* *Vide post.*

Among the monuments removed to other places was an alabaster stone belonging to the Burtons of Longnor. A descendant of this ancient family, Edward Burton, Esq. was a zealous assertor of the Gospel, in the time of Queen Mary, and of course rendered himself obnoxious to the existing establishment; so much so, that at his death, the Roman Catholic curate of St. Chad's refused him Christian burial in the tomb of his ancestors. The account given of this eminent personage by his great grandson is curious: "The author of the *Acts and Monuments of the Church of England* names him among those that escaped persecution in Queen Mary's reign. He had, by many precautions, evaded the hands of such as lay in wait for him; when one day sitting alone in his upper parlour at Longnor, in meditation no doubt of God's deliverance of his people, he heard a general ring of all the bells of Shrewsbury, whereunto, in St Ceadda's parish, his house belonged; when straight his divining soul told him it was for Queen Mary's death; yet longing to know the truth more certainly, and loath to trust his servants therein, for some reasons, he sent his eldest son, a boy about sixteen years of age, willing him to throw up his hat if it were so, so impatient was his expectation, who finding it, and doing accordingly as he was directed, the good man retired presently from the window, and recovering his chair, overcome with excess of joy, suddenly expired. And this was his *nunc dimittis domine*. But the storm of persecution was not quite blown over; the servants of God still felt some of its scatterings, among which was their being debarred Christian burial. But, *facilis jactura sepulcri*: his friends made a shift to bury him in his gardens by the fish-ponds, and set a monument over him, which being defaced by time and rain, it happened in the year 1614 that Edward Burton, Esq. his grandson, inviting to dinner the noble Sir Andrew Corbet, then lieutenant of the shire, with divers other gentlemen of quality, that good baronet was desirous to see the place which preserved the reliques of that excellent man; and finding it much decayed,

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cayed, after a friendly correction of his host, seriously enjoined him to repair the tomb, whereby the memory of his most deserving grand-father was kept alive. He, without any ado, effected what he spake for, and promised himself to become the poet for an epitaph, which is as follows :

Here lieth the body of Edward Burton, Esq.
who deceased, Anno Domini 1558.

Was't for denying Christ, or some notorious fact
That this man's body Christian burial lackt?
O no! his faithful true profession
Was the chief cause, which then was held transgression :
When Popery here did reign, the see of Rome
Would not admit to any such a tomb
Within their idol temple walls, but he
Truly professing Christianity,
Was like Christ Jesus in a garden laid,
Where he shall rest in peace till it be said,
Come, faithful servant, come receive with me
A just reward for thine integrity.---1614*."

This narrative exhibits a striking proof of that odious spirit of intolerance, which certainly hastened the downfall of the Romish establishment in this country. It were to be wished that no portion of it should have been suffered to infect the reformed religion which was founded on its ruins ; but such are the variations of the human character, in prosperity and adversity, that some Protestants, now in their turn, become intolerant, and shew a disposition to exclude the Catholics, not indeed from the rights of burial, but from a free participation of civil and religious liberty.

The site of the old edifice being deemed ineligible, the NEW CHURCH of ST. CHAD was erected on a commanding eminence, bordering on the quarry. It is constructed of the beautiful stone of Grinshill, on a plan extremely novel. The body of the church externally is a circle, one hundred feet in diameter.

* Commentary on Antoninus's Itinerary, by William Burton, B. L. p. 136.

diameter. This is divided into two stories; the basement is rustic, and contains a range of square windows. In the higher division are the large arched windows which form the principal lights, and between them are double Ionic pilasters, resting upon the basement, and supporting a bold and handsome cornice crowned with an open ballustrade. Attached to this main edifice on the eastern side, is a small circular building with similar enrichments, and beyond is the steeple. The portal is placed in the front of the lower story of the tower, on each side of which is a square plain wing. Before the front is a portico, elevated on a flight of steps, and supported on four Doric columns. The steeple consists of a square basement of rustic work, on which rests an octagonal belfry, highly enriched with Ionic pilasters, pannels, &c. containing twelve bells: and above, is a small dome, supported by eight Corinthian pillars, and crowned with a gilt cross.

The exterior beauty of this church consists more in the fineness of its materials, and the elegant splendour of its ornaments, than in the harmonious proportion and disposition of its parts. The rotundity of the main building is too large for its height; the smaller circle, which connects it with the steeple, seems as if squeezed in between those huge masses, and the angles produced by their contact have a most unpleasing effect. In fact, the disproportion of this large round body to its small head, reminds one of the form of an over-grown spider. The interior is not a complete circle, a small segment being partitioned off, to form a recess for the communion-table, which here, contrary to custom, is situated in the west. A gallery, decorated in front with a light ballustrade, encircles the whole of the church except the chancel. Over the chief entrance stands an organ in the front of the gallery. The place is sufficiently spacious to accommodate a congregation of 1600 to 2000 persons, and by the judicious disposition of the pews, the officiating clergyman is visible from almost every part. From the great number of windows, the glare of light

was so intolerable, that it has been deemed necessary to cover some of them with dark green cloth curtains, which have a triste and horrid appearance. The window of the chancel is "richly dight," with a representation of our Lord's Resurrection, by Eginton, from a design by West.

The collegiate church of ST. MARY is said to have been founded by Edgar, but it bears evident marks of a much earlier origin. In the time of Edward the Confessor, it held great landed estates, of a considerable part of which it was deprived soon after the Norman Conquest. From very remote times it enjoyed the privileges of a royal free chapel, and was therefore exempt from the jurisdiction of a bishop. These privileges formed a frequent ground of contest between the sovereign pontiffs and the kings of England, in which the latter generally prevailed.

A particular instance of these struggles relates to the church now under consideration. About the year 1270, the Dean had a dispute with the Abbot of Salop, touching the right of presentation to the church of Fittes, or as it was then written, Fytesho, to which one Robert de Acton had been instituted by the bishop of Lichfield, and forcibly ejected by the dean. Acton, being a crusader, was under the especial protection of the pope, whose officer, called *the Executor of the Cross*, sent an order to the Abbot of Shrewsbury to restore the expelled incumbent to his benefice. This being accordingly done, the king's attorney-general filed an information against the Abbot, calling upon him to answer "wherefore he exercised jurisdiction in the chapel of Fytesho, appertaining to the king's free chapel of St. Mary of Salop, which is exempt, so that neither our lord the pope, nor any other ecclesiastical judge hath jurisdiction therein." Judgment passed against the Abbot for his intrusion; he was obliged to pay damages to the king, and was likewise imprisoned.*

Certain

* Prynne's Records, Vol. III. p. 109.

Certain immunities were involved in the exercise of these ecclesiastical privileges. The dean of St. Mary's had, from time immemorial, the power of collecting and paying into the king's exchequer, the tenths or other subsidies arising from the deanery or prebends. Edward the First confirmed this privilege; and his grandson, in the eighteenth year of his reign recognized its existence, by directing the sheriffs of Salop and Hereford not to enter the jurisdiction of the royal chapel, or to levy a distress on the possessions thereof, for any subsidies or tenths, unless the dean should neglect to make a due return.*

At the dissolution of the college in the second of Edward the Sixth, it had, according to Leland, a dean and nine poor prebendaries. There were also vicars choral, two chauntry priests, a parish priest, and a stipendiary clerk or assistant. The yearly revenues were valued at no more than 13l. 1s. 8d. Probably the corps of the deanery and prebends, or the particular estates belonging to each, were valued at some other place, so that this was merely the amount of the revenues which were common. The greater part of the tythes was given by Edward the Sixth to the newly founded school. The spiritual jurisdiction still remains as when under the old collegiate establishment.

The church stands at the north eastern part of the town, in an area which has still the retired appearance of a collegiate close. It is a large venerable building, in the form of a cross, consisting of a nave, side-aisle, transept, choir, and chapels, with a western steeple. The exterior exhibits various styles of architecture. The basement of the tower is of red stone, and has the small round-headed windows of the early Norman era. From the bell-story the later pointed style takes place. This and the greater part of the structure are of the free-stone of Grinshill. From the tower, which is very large, but low, rises a lofty and beautiful spire, forming a conspicuous ornament

* Hotchkiss's MS. cited by Phillips.

ment to the town, in the prospect from the adjacent country, to a considerable distance.

On the south side of the church is a stone porch of early Norman architecture. Its outward arch is circular, with diagonal or zig-zag mouldings, the inner rib obtusely pointed. Its ceiling presents a specimen of the most ancient kind of groined vault, having four round massive ribs, which cross each other in the centre, without any boss or ornament. The semi-circular arch of the interior door, as well as the arches of the north and south doors of the transept, are of the early style of building which was in fashion from the Conquest to the days of Henry the Second. The windows of the side-aisles, as well as of the upper story of the nave and choir, are pointed, and have mullions, while those of the transept are long and lancet-shaped, without any. At the last repair, the higher walls of the nave were unfortunately raised above their original levels, hence they produce an effect which entirely destroys the ancient proportions, and gives the whole building a top-heavy appearance. The church, within, is strikingly noble, and, with the exception of that of Ludlow, by far the handsomest in the county. The walls of the nave are supported on each side by four semi-circular arches, with mouldings, peculiar to the pointed style, and these spring from handsome clustered pillars, their shafts having the small flat rib which belongs to the thirteenth century. The capitals are highly enriched with foliage, and, as is usually the case in ancient churches, are all of different designs. The round, or what is generally called the *Saxon*, forms of these arches, which rest upon pillars coeval only with the pointed arch, and overspread with mouldings of that fashion, produce altogether a singular mixture of the different styles. This leads to a suspicion, that the present enrichments were additions of a time long subsequent to the plain round arches and pillars of the original fabric, which were doubtless similar to those in the Abbey Church.

Above

Above the arches is a clere-story with a high range of short windows on both sides, running the whole length of the church. The ceiling of the nave, which is of oak, rises into an extremely flat arch, separated by its principal beams into square pannels, including circles richly adorned with quatre-foils and foliage. The ribs and bosses, at their intersections, are carved into double roses, devices, and knots; those attached to the centre-beam having pendent ornaments, pelicans, angels with musical instruments, and grotesque figures. The whole is in high preservation, and is allowed to be one of the finest specimens of the ancient fretted-wood ceiling in the kingdom. The great window, which terminates the chancel, contains, as we have before observed, the fine stained glass brought from the ruins of St. Chad's. It occupies the principal compartments of the lower division of the window; and as there was not a sufficient quantity to fill the arch or head, that part is made out with some ancient coats of arms, mixed with modern stained glass, which matches tolerably well with the rest. At the bottom of the piece, is represented the patriarch Jesse, in a deep sleep. His upper robe is yellow, edged with embroidery and lined with ermine, clasped over the shoulder with a rich broach. His tunic is blue and his hose are green, both beautifully diapered; he rests on his arm, and his head appears covered by a red velvet cap, doubled with ermine, exactly similar to that under the crown of our monarchs, and is supported on a cushion of green embroidery, decorated at the four corners with tassels of gold. From his loins, proceeds a vine, the branches of which spread over the whole window, inclosing in each of their oval compartments, a king, or a patriarch of the ancestry of Joseph, the husband of the Virgin Mary, who himself kneels at the feet of his progenitor. The ground of the whole is a vivid red, on which the white and yellow clusters of grapes, and the bright verdure of vine-leaves, are displayed with great effect. David is designated by his harp, and by an instrument in his left hand, probably representing a kind of *plectrum*. Three of the compartments, which in the original

ginal window were ranged below the genealogy, contain figures of warriors, in the hauberk or linked armour, each kneeling under a foliated tabernacle. They are supposed to have been branches of the noble family of Charlton of Powis, who are known to have set up this window, as appears from the following inscription, which formerly made part of it :

Pries pr. Mons. Johan de Charleton qe fist fare ceste verrure et pr. Dame Hawise sa companion.

Pray for my lord John de Charleton who caused to be made this glazing, and for Dame Hawise his wife.

John de Charlton, valet or page to King Edward the First, was a younger son of Sir Alan de Charlton, of Apley castle, where he was born about the year 1268. He was summoned to parliament as a baron of the realm, from 1313 to 1353, in which year he died, at the advanced age of eighty-five. He married, through the favour of his royal master, Hawise *the Hardy*, sole heiress of Owen, grandson of Gwynwynwyn, Prince of Powis, and by her was progenitor of the Charltons, Lords of Powis. From the form in the ancient inscription, *pray for*, and not, *pray for the souls of*, the window was certainly erected in the *lifetime* of John and Hawise.—This singular piece of antiquity is well worthy the attention of the antiquary, not only for its fine colouring and execution, but for the costume, which may reasonably be presumed to be that of the age in which it was stained. Many other fine specimens that adorned this church, have now disappeared, particularly that of the assumption of the Blessed Virgin, which was taken down at the Reformation, much against the will of the parishioners.

Attached to the south side of the chancel, is a large and lofty chapel, originally dedicated to the service of the patron saint. Over the doors are labels of scriptural texts in honour of her. It is at present used as a Sunday school. There are some ancient tombs in the church, and some modern monuments, the epitaphs of which are appropriate and elegant. Against the tower, is an inscription

inscription to the memory of Robert Cadman, who, in January 1740, lost his life in a hair-brained attempt to descend from the top of the spire along a rope, which he had affixed to its highest part, and extended to a field on the opposite side of the river. In the midst of his passage the rope broke, and he was precipitated into St. Mary's friars, amidst thousands of spectators. There being a hard frost at the time, his body rebounded to the height of several feet, and he died instantly.* From among several epitaphs which were proposed on the occasion, the following quaint one was adopted :

Let this small monument record the name
Of Cadman, and to future times proclaim,
How, from a bold attempt to fly from this high spire,
Across the Sabrina stream, he did acquire
His fatal end : 'Twas not for want of skill,
Or courage, to perform the task, he fell ;
No, no, a faulty cord, being drawn too tight,
Hurried his soul on high to take her flight,
Which bid the body here beneath good night.

The parish of St. Mary's extends full ten miles in length, running very near to Wem. Within the town it consists chiefly of the Castle Street, from the Cross, with part of Dog Pole, the suburb of Cotton Hill, and one half of the Castle Foregate.

The church of ST. ALKMUND was founded by Queen Elfreda, daughter of Offa, King of Mercia, and Queen of Kenwolf, who governed that kingdom at the beginning of the ninth century. King Edgar, by the advice of St. Dunstan, established in it ten priests, for whose maintenance he appointed rich prebends or portions in land. Its patron saint was a prince of the Northumbrian family, who is said to have been buried at Lilleshull, in this county :

* It appears that Cadman had attempted similar feats, several times before, with success. A prelate, from whom he had asked permission to fix a line to the steeple of a cathedral, for the like purpose, replied, that the man might fly to the church whenever he pleased, but he should never give his consent for any one to fly from it.

county: or, according to another writer, at Whitchurch, whence it was translated to Derby. Among the large possessions which this collegiate church held in the Saxon times, was the church of Wistanstow, with four hides of land in that parish, including the village of Languefelde (Cheney Longville). The manner in which it lost this appendage, as recorded in Dugdale, is an example of the fluctuations to which, in those days of turbulence, all property, even the most sacred, was liable. King Edward, the Confessor, wrested these lands from one Spirtes, a canon of St. Alkmund's, and gave them to Godric Wiffesune. On his death, about two years after the conquest, Nygel, physician to Roger de Montgomery, and an ecclesiastic, obtained possession of them. After his decease the church put in its claim, but at the request of Earl Hugh, was obliged to demise the property for four years to Gilbert de Cundore, a layman, who retained them until he was excommunicated by the bishop. In order to obtain absolution, he and his knights submitted to the penance subsequently inflicted on Henry the Second, and were flogged by the canons at the altar of St. Alkmund's church. On the ejection of Gilbert, however, the property was again demised to Pagan Fitzjohn, chamberlain to Henry the First, and sheriff of Shropshire; and it finally centered in his son-in-law, Roger, Earl of Hereford, who, after the death of Pagan, held it by force of arms.

The superior, or dean, of this collegiate church, had, in common with those of other Saxon foundations, the right of hereditary succession, and even claimed a privilege of alienating the property to other religious uses. In the year 1150, when monastic institutions were universally popular, and the colleges of the secular clergy had fallen into disrepute, Richard de Belmeys, then dean of St. Alkmund's, voluntarily surrendered the estate of the deanery which lay at Lilleshull, towards the endowment of an abbey of canons regular of St. Augustine, about to be erected on that spot, made sacred by the sepulture of the patron saint of his church; and so great was his zeal for this new institution, that he solicited, and obtained, the consent of the

Pope

Pope and King Stephen for dissolving the college entirely, and for transforming all its estates to the new Abbey, which was also dedicated to St. Alkmund. Thus stripped of all its landed property, the church sunk to a poor vicarage, which continued in the patronage of the monks of Lilleshull, till the dissolution, when it became vested in the crown.

Like the other sacred edifices of Shrewsbury, this church was erected at different periods, and exhibited various styles of architecture. Of its antiquity, however, few features remain; for the panic caused by the sudden fall of St. Chad's, induced the parishioners of St. Alkmund's to petition parliament for leave to pull down the body of the old church and to erect a new one in its stead, which was opened for divine service in 1795. The expense amounted to £3000, half of which sum might have answered for a substantial repair of the original structure. The modern building is a tolerable imitation of the ancient pointed architecture. Its plan is an oblong square, eighty-two feet by forty-four, with a small recess for the altar. The interior is without pillars or galleries, excepting one at the west end, and has a flat ceiling with stucco ornaments. Over the altar is a window painted by Eginton, representing Evangelical Faith, in a female figure as large as life, kneeling on a cross, with the eyes elevated, and arms extended towards a celestial crown, which appears amidst the opening clouds. The motto is, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." At the west end is a beautiful spire-steeple, which escaped the fate of the church. From the flat arches of the bell-windows, and the general style of the architecture, it is conceived to have been erected in the sixteenth century. It has undergone frequent repairs, and is now in good preservation. The height of the tower, which contains six old bells,* is seventy feet, that of the spire one

* In the times of superstition, the sound of church-bells was supposed to be very efficacious in chasing away the spirits of darkness. The following curious notice will show that they were not at all times proof against infernal agency:

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one hundred and fourteen, making the whole height of the steeple one hundred and eighty-four feet.

ST. JULIAN'S CHURCH is of Saxon origin, but of uncertain foundation. It was distinguished, through several reigns, as a Rectory, and royal free chapel with a peculiar jurisdiction. According to Tanner, it was early annexed to the free chapel of St. Michael, within the castle, and so continued until the reign of Henry the Fifth, when they were both resigned into the king's hands, who probably gave their revenues to augment the estate of his fathers's newly erected college of Battle-field. The church of St. Julian then sunk from a rectory into a mere stipendiary curacy. The present structure, except the tower, is modern, built of brick and stone. Its interior is handsome and commodious, having on each side four Doric columns which sustain the roof. The east window is filled with fine painted glass, consisting chiefly of a large ancient figure of St. James, which was purchased in 1804 from the splendid collection brought from Rouen. In the east wall of the chancel is a small female figure within a foliated tabernacle, preserved from the ruins of the old church, and probably representing St. Juliana the patroness, a noble lady of Florence, who suffered martyrdom in the ninth century.

There were CONVENTS in this town, belonging to the Austin, Franciscan, and Dominican friars. Few remains of those buildings are now visible. A portion, probably the refectory, of that belonging to the Franciscans, which stood on the banks of the Severn, under the Wyle Cope, is converted into houses. The convent of the Austin friars, situated at the bottom of Barker

"This yere, 1533, upon twelffe daye, in Shrowsbury, the Dyvyll appearyd in Saint Alkmond's church there when the preest was at high masse, with great tempeste and darknesse, so that as he passyd through the church he mountyd up the steeple in the sayde church, teryng the wyers of the said clocke, and put the print of his clawes uppon the 4th bell, and tooke one of the pynacles awaye with hym, and for the tyme stayed all the bells in the churches within the sayde towne that they could neyther toll nor ringe." *Taylor's MSS.* cited by Phillips.

ker Street near the river, may still be traced in the shell of a large building with two pointed-arched door-ways. Of the convent of the Dominicans, which occupied a meadow along the river, between the Water-lane-gate and the English bridge, scarcely a fragment remains. Perhaps the reason why monastic edifices are rarely to be found, is, that being generally fixed in towns, the stone and other materials were more readily sold. Add to this, the grantees of the crown, at the dissolution of monasteries, rased and demolished them as expeditiously as possible, in order to prevent their being reclaimed on any future change of affairs.

Several *Chapels* formerly stood in this town ; the most splendid and ancient of which, seems to have been the collegiate chapel of St. Michael, within the castle. No vestige of its site is now distinguishable, though it probably existed, at least in a ruinous state, in the reign of James the Second, since an order appears in the records of the corporation, for making enquiry concerning the stones taken thence. Part of the chapel of St. Nicholas, on the left hand entrance of the council-house, is still standing, being now converted into a stable. Nothing of its origin, and very little of its history, has been preserved. The chapels of St. Catharine, of St. Blaise, and of St. Mary Magdalene, together with other ancient ecclesiastical edifices of the same class, which once adorned this eminent town, have now disappeared ; yet their faint traces still afford matter of interesting speculation to the philosophic antiquary.—And who shall say, even in this age of scientific refinement, that such speculations, because they are retrospective, are idle and unprofitable ? The study of British antiquity demands no ordinary qualifications ; it needs, and it excites, a perpetual ardour of inquiry into the nature of the institutions, whose memorials are the objects of its contemplation ; it promotes the improvement of the arts by which those memorials are preserved, copied, and multiplied ; it reveals to the present age, and to posterity, the neglected wisdom of their forefathers, and teaches an equally profitable lesson, by pointing out

the progress and the gradual abatement of ignorance and error ; but, above all, it distinguishes the degrees by which the successive generations of our country have ascended from the dark abyss of despotism, to the region of light and liberty. The antiquary who investigates the soil of Great Britain, traces at every step the roots which support, nourish, and strengthen our glorious constitution.

In this account of the ecclesiastical edifices of Shrewsbury, it would be obviously wrong to omit some notice of the places of worship belonging to such a numerous and respectable class as the Protestant dissenters, who have here several meeting houses, most of which are very well attended and supported.

It is always painful, to men of sober and moderate principles, to recur to the Act of Uniformity, which, on Bartholomew's Day, 1662, drove from their livings at least two thousand clergymen, "many of them distinguished by their abilities and zeal,"* to seek subsistence from the charity of friends, and consolation in times of oppression from the calm testimony of a good conscience. To this act Shrewsbury is indebted for its first regular dissenting church.† It was formed by the Rev. John Bryan, M. A. and the Rev. Francis Tallents, M. A. The first

* Burnet's *Own Time*, Vol. I. p. 269, 8vo. ed. 1809. In justification of this remark, it is pleasing to quote the authority of the celebrated Locke. "Bartholomew's Day," observes this great man, "was fatal to our church and religion, by throwing out a very great number of worthy, learned, pious, and orthodox divines." PSS. works, *Des Maizeaux* col. p. 62, fol. second ed. p. 20. *Letter from a Person of Quality*.

† The Rev. Thomas Quarrel, first an occasional preacher, and afterwards vicar of Oswestry, is said to have been "the first pastor of the congregational church at Shrewsbury, viz. in *Oliver's* time, and afterwards preached there as often as the violence of the times would permit." Rev. Job Orton, in *Palmer's Non-conformist's Memorial*, Vol. III. p. 150. Mr. Quarrel was one of the ejected ministers, and became pastor of the Baptist church at Llangwn and Llantusaint, Monmouthshire.

first of these gentlemen, was ejected from the living of St. Chad's. He was the eldest son of Dr. Bryan of Coventry. At an early period he was sent to the University of Cambridge, and entered of Emanuel College and Peter House, where he spent many years. Soon after he left college, he became domestic chaplain to the Earl of Stamford, lecturer of Loughborough, and minister of Diddlebury, in this county. In 1652, he removed to the abbey-parish, Shrewsbury, where he was much respected. He soon received an invitation to the vacant living of St. Chad's, where he remained till August 24, 1662. He was twice imprisoned along with Mr. Tallents and others, but in the last instance, he, with great difficulty, contrived to make his escape. Upon his refusal of the Five-mile act, in 1666, he was constrained to remove, with his family, to Shiffnal, and used to go by night to officiate at Shrewsbury. The crafty Indulgence act of Charles the Second, in 1672, gave him and his colleague, Mr. Tallents, a little respite from fear and interruption in their religious exercises. During this period he preached in the house of a Mrs. Hunt, noted for her piety, and her partiality to the ejected ministers. This season of repose, however, did not long continue. In 1683, new troubles arose. On the evidence of two maid servants, Mr. Bryan was convicted of preaching, and fined 40*l*. Afterwards he and Mr. Tallents were put into the crown-office; and he was forced once more to leave the town. The liberty granted in 1687, by the succeeding monarch, James, again restored him to his ministerial vocations with Mr. Tallents, and a regular dissenting congregation being formed, these two ministers continued together till the death of Mr. Bryan, August 31, 1699.*

The Rev. Francis Tallents, the other founder of the society of dissenters in High-Street, was born at Pelsley, near Chesterfield, Derbyshire. About 1642, he travelled as tutor to the sons of the Earl of Suffolk. On his return, he was chosen Fellow of Magdalene College, and was afterwards Senior Fellow

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and

* Calamy.

and President. As a tutor he was justly celebrated, and had among his pupils Sir Robert Sawyer, and Dr. Burton. In 1652, he left the university, and became minister of St. Mary's. In 1656, in the parish church of Ellesmere, was exhibited one of those public disputations about doctrine, for which that period was noted and disgraced, and Mr. Tallents was chosen moderator, an office for which his great learning and greater prudence eminently qualified him. The disputants were Mr. Porter, of Whitechuch, and Mr. Haggar, a Baptist.—The subject was the necessity and validity of infant and adult Baptism. In this business Mr. Tallents is said to have acquitted himself with credit. The restoration of the exiled Charles gave him great pleasure; but the Act of Uniformity blasted all his hopes of accommodating himself to the established state of ecclesiastical affairs. After his ejection, he annually observed Bartholomew-day as a day of fasting and prayer; and it was not till after the lapse of several years that he could bring himself to undertake any stated work in the ministry, or to lay aside the use of a liturgy, to which he had always been accustomed, and which he had ever justly admired for its antiquity and excellence.

In 1670, he travelled into France, as tutor to Mr. Boscawen, and Mr. Hampden, two young gentlemen of fortune. At the expiration of two years and a half, he returned to Shrewsbury, and joined Mr. Bryan in preaching to the dissenters there, and in conducting an academy for the education of dissenting ministers. In 1685, he was sent a prisoner to Chester for these labours; but on the defeat of the Duke of Monmouth in the West, he was liberated, and going to London, he led a private life. During his absence from Shropshire, in 1686, he was calumniated as a papist, by a fanatic who pretended to have found, in a desk which he had left at Shrewsbury, "such vestments as priests say mass in, full of crosses and images; and a book in which were the names of such as were admitted into the order of the jesuits." This "no-popery" slander had its foundation

foundation in "a piece of an old white damask bed scoloped, and a book, containing the names of his pupils at Magdalene College." The matter produced some successful prosecutions, and then dropt. In 1687, he returned once more to the assistance of Mr. Bryan, and, though he was a man of very great moderation and favourable to occasional conformity, in 1691, he finally entered into his new place of worship, on the walls of which he caused to be written "That it was not built for a faction or party, but for promoting repentance and faith, and in communion with all that love our Lord Jesus Christ, in sincerity." He died April 11, 1708, in the eighty-ninth year of his age,* and was buried in the church, from which he had been ejected. Besides Mr. Bryan, he had for his assistants, successively, Mr. James Owen,† and Samuel Benion, M. D. Mr. Tallents was a man of considerable erudition and great industry. He published besides several works

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on

* The Rev. Mr. Dawes, who officiated at the interment of Mr. Tallents could not, or would not, conscientiously use the words, "in sure and certain hope:" but piously, and charitably, consigned the remains of the learned non-conformist to the dust—"in hope,"—in dubious and uncertain hope. *Works of Matthew Henry*, 613—620.

† With an aptness of metaphor peculiar to the authors of a recent History of Dissenters, we are informed that "the name of Owen, is raised to imperial dignity in the theological world," as if it were no uncommon event to have an Emperor of such wide dominion. This "imperial" name, we are told, was not disgraced in the person of James Owen, who, "studying under Mr. Samuel Jones, of Brynllwarch," became eminently qualified to bring the Shrewsbury Seminary for the education of dissenting ministers "into full effect and form," a consummation, it would seem, beyond the powers of the learned fellow and vice-president of Magdalene, Mr. Tallents. That Mr. Owen was a man of considerable acquirements, and of genuine piety, there can be no doubt; but how far he may have deserved the lavish encomiums so quaintly bestowed on him by these singular writers, is not quite so obvious. "The stone, the instrument of death to the divines of that century, put an end to his valuable life in the year one thousand seven hundred and six, when he was only fifty-two years of age." He was succeeded by Samuel Benion, M. D., a native of Shropshire, and a man of eloquence and learning.

on controverted points of divinity, "A View of Universal History; or Chronological Tables." They were finely engraved, on sixteen copper-plates, in his own house. In his eighty-fifth year, he wrote a short History of Schism, for the promoting of Christian moderation, which was answered by a person signing himself S. G. whose book was replied to with effect by Mr. Tallents. He left behind him many MSS. of importance, particularly a journal of his travels, which was formerly in the hands of the Rev. Job Orton; but so blotted and soiled, as to lose much of its value.*

In 1715, a year remarkable for the first Jacobite rebellion; this meeting-house was destroyed by a mob; but was soon afterwards re-built at the expense of Government. Nothing of consequence is observable in its history till the year 1742, when the Rev. Job Orton was appointed minister on the death of Mr. Berry. Of this excellent man, it will be proper to give some account in this place.

Mr. Orton was born at Shrewsbury, Sept. 4, 1717, where his parents were grocers of considerable property. He had a strictly religious education, and was early sent to the free-school of this town, where he continued eight years, and made great improvements in classical learning. In 1733 he was put under the care of Mr. Charles Owen, a dissenting minister at Warrington. He remained only one year with this gentleman, and then removed to Northampton, to be under the tuition of the learned and amiable Dr. Doddridge, where he remained about seven years. In the latter part of this period, he was chosen to assist the Doctor in teaching the classics, and obtained, not only the complete approbation of his employer and tutor, but also his warmest affection and regard. About the same period he entered on the ministerial office, and statedly assisted Dr. Doddridge the first Sunday in every month, and on other days occasionally preached
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* Palmer's Non-conformists' Mem. III. 158. In this work there is a head of Mr. Tallents, from an original drawing, formerly in the possession of the late Mr. Orton.

to the neighbouring congregations, where supplies were wanting.

Though Mr. Orton's great learning and good sense would never permit him to adopt the entire faith of the Genevan Reformer,* he received several invitations from different societies of Calvinists to become their pastor ; but nothing could induce him to leave Dr. Doddridge, till, in the year 1741, he received a pressing invitation to his native place, where there were two vacancies at the same time, the one occasioned by the death of Mr. Charles Berry, of the old presbyterian chapel, and the other by the removal of Mr. Dobson, the independent minister. The concurrent invitations of these churches, and the mutual assurance they gave Mr. Orton of uniting their societies in one, if he would become their pastor, affords a striking example of the triumph of practical virtue over the contending interests of party-prejudice. This was a circumstance too congenial with the liberal sentiments of Mr. Orton to be disregarded by him ; he accordingly accepted the offer, and removed to Shrewsbury. The loss of his father, and his own ill state of health, soon, for a time, interrupted the pleasure he derived from this union. He went to Bath for relief ; but on his return it was found necessary to provide him an assistant, which was done by the appointment of the Rev. Francis Boulton, who removed to Wrexham in 1745,†

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* In the second volume of the Protestant Dissenters' Magazine, to which we are principally indebted for this account, it is stated, that " Mr. Orton told the writer [probably the Rev. S. Palmer, of Hackney] that he never used the common doxology above once in his life ; and that then he was inadvertently led to do it by a note which Dr. Doddridge sent up to him in the pulpit, when certain ministers were present, expressed in these terms : " One who has received great blessings from the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, desires due praise may be given to each." It is impossible to conceive the *quo animo* under which this apparent artifice was performed.—Surely Doddridge could not design to try the orthodoxy of his friend by an experiment bordering on pious fraud !

† Phillips, p. 111, says, in 1746.

and was succeeded by the Rev. Moses Carter, who died in 1747, and the following year, the Rev. Joseph Fownes was appointed to fill the place. This gentleman afterwards became co-pastor with Mr. Orton, with whom he lived in great harmony till the last.

On his birth-day, September 15, 1765, Mr. Orton's increasing infirmities induced him finally to resign the pastoral charge, though he afterwards frequently administered the Lord's Supper.

That love of sound learning and correct taste, which so eminently imbues the minds of our modern presbyterian dissenters, and which has contributed to diminish their numbers, by driving from their meetings the vulgar and illiterate, had already begun to operate on the society at Shrewsbury. This circumstance, together with an unnatural dispute about the use of a liturgy in the performance of public worship, soon after Mr. Orton's resignation, produced a division in the society, which, in its effects, so much distressed their revered pastor, as ultimately to induce him to remove to Kidderminster. He chose this place, that he might be near Dr. Johnson, a physician, of whom he entertained a high opinion. He removed thither in 1766, where he remained till he died, on July 19, 1783, in the 66th year of his age. Agreeably to his own request, he was buried in the church of St. Chad, in the grave of Mr. Bryan, the ejected minister,* near which place is erected a very small tablet to his memory.

To delineate the character of this excellent man would be to

* On removing the grave-stone, which lay partly under the steps of the altar, the following inscription was discovered: "*Parce cineribus D. Johannis Bryan, A. M. olim pastoris hujus ecclesiæ, cum aliis ejecti, Aug. 24, 1662, qui varias passus fortitus tulit; inculpate vixit. Deoq. inservivit usque ad senectutem, non otiose peractam, licet infirmitatibus gravatum. Pœnosa illebus morte abreptus. In Christo exultans, placide transmigravit ad vitam meliorem, Aug. 31, 1669. Filius ejus unicus superstes in memoriam dignissimi parentis, P. M.*" At the bottom, in Hebrew, "*The memory of the just is blessed.*"

to transcribe a large portion of his valuable writings.* His Life of Doddridge is a master-piece of biography. He printed several discourses, and other works, chiefly on practical subjects; besides which, he published anonymously, two pamphlets in defence of his friend Dr. Adams, master of Pembroke College, Oxford, who had also the living of St. Chad's, in answer to some virulent attacks of the Methodists.† His posthumous works consist of an Exposition of the Old Testament, with additions, by Mr. R. Gentleman, in 6 volumes, octavo; a volume of Letters to a Young Clergyman, which was published by the late Rev. Mr. Stedman, minister of St. Chad's, to whom they were addressed: in addition to which, in 1806, his friend, the Rev. Samuel Palmer, of Hackney, published two duodecimo volumes, consisting of Letters to Dissenting Ministers, and to Students for the Ministry, which he transcribed from the short-hand notes of Mr. Orton. To these volumes are prefixed Memoirs of the Author, which are the same in substance, and nearly in words, as those to which we have already referred.

After the separation which took place between the Liturgists and the Anti-liturgists of the Old Chapel, Mr. Fownes continued minister, with the assistance of the Rev. Mr. Stapp, of Warrington, who died in 1767, and was succeeded by the Rev. Ralph Harrison, afterwards of Manchester,‡ whither he removed in 1771, and his place was filled up in 1774, by the
Rev.

* It is gratifying to notice the liberal mention made of Mr. Orton, in the Rev. Hugh Owen's Account of Shrewsbury. The favourable opinion of such a gentleman, would be honourable to the character of any man; but in this instance, the testimony is as creditable to the person who makes it, as it is merited by the object of it; and affords one of many pleasing indications of the growing spirit of candour and moderation in the regular and rational clergy of the Establishment. *Same Account*, &c. p. 172.

† Prot. Dis. Mag. Vol. II. p. 181.

‡ Mr. Harrison, upon his leaving Shrewsbury, succeeded the Rev. Mr. Joseph Mottershead, and, in conjunction with his friend and colleague in the
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Rev. Mr. Smith.* It does not appear in what year Mr. Fownes died, nor what became of his assistant; but the Rev. Mr. Rowe, now of Bristol, was sometime minister of this congregation, which is at present under the pastoral care of the Rev. Mr. Case,† a preacher of considerable talents, and of exemplary rectitude of conduct.

The chapel, which stands on the north side of High-street, is a plain brick building, neatly fitted up, and sufficiently commodious. The congregation consists of Unitarian Dissenters, including many of the most reputable and opulent inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood.

On the disagreement respecting the choice of a minister, and the use of a liturgy, to which we have already adverted, in the Old Meeting House, a new congregation was formed, who, with the assistance, or at least the concurrence, of Mr. Orton, erected in 1776, a new place of worship on Iwan Hill, or Murivance, of the Independent persuasion. Their history involves but few facts of importance that have not been anticipated in the account of the Old Meeting. Their first minister was the Rev. Robert Gentleman, who had formerly been one of Mr. Orton's hearers; he removed to Carmarthen, and was succeeded, in 1779, by the Rev. Samuel Lucas. Since this period the New Meeting has been distinguished only for the zeal and general good conduct of its members, and that frequent succession of ministers for which most places of worship among the dissenters are remarkable.

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the ministry, the late venerable and universally esteemed, Dr. Barnes, undertook the charge of an academical institution at Manchester. He died, Nov. 24, 1810, universally lamented, as a man of mild and amiable manners, and a judicious and instructive preacher.—*Monthly Repository of Theology and General Literature*, Vol. V. p. 601.

* Phillips's History and Antiquities of Shrewsbury, p. 112.

† Mr. Case is a descendant of the Rev. Thomas Case, M. A., of Christ Church, Oxford, and minister of St. Mary Magdalen, Milk-street, London, from which living he was turned out for refusing the Engagement, and was afterwards

The Baptist Meeting House, in Dog-lane, has had its share in variety of preachers; but none of them appear to have been no otherwise remarkable, than for their piety and sincerity; except, indeed, the present minister, the Rev. John Palmer, who is distinguished not only for his unwearied zeal in the propagation of what he conceives to be religious truth; but is known and respected as a gentleman of learning and science, and as an ardent lover of civil and religious liberty.* Mr. Palmer's meeting house being now (1810) undergoing considerable improvements, during the time it is thus necessarily closed, the congregation are allowed to meet for worship, in the stated intervals of service, at the Unitarian Chapel, in High-street, an instance of politeness and Christian charity highly creditable to the character of the persons concerned, and worthy of being universally copied in this age of increasing parties.

Besides

afterwards lecturer at Aldermanbury and St. Giles's, Cripplegate. He was a man of an open honest heart, but of a warm and impetuous spirit, and was imprisoned six months in the Tower, for his concern with Mr. Christopher Love, who, in 1651, with Mr. Gibbons, another Presbyterian divine, was executed for conspiracy against the government of Cromwell. Mr. Case was afterwards rector of St. Giles's in the Fields; and in 1660, was appointed one of the deputation to wait on the king at the Hague; and the year following, one of the commissioners at the Savoy. He was the longest survivor of any who composed the Assembly of Divines at Westminster, who continued among the Dissenters. His principal labours as a minister terminated with the commencement of the Act of Uniformity, and he died May 30, 1682, aged 84. His works consist principally of sermons preached on sundry occasions, some of which were delivered at the celebrated Morning Exercise, of which he was the founder, and in which, the eminent Tillotson took a share.—*Vide Calamy*—also *Neale's Hist. of the Puritans*, *Toulmin's Edit.*

* At a late political meeting, this gentleman distinguished himself by a public speech, addressed to the mayor, glowing with sentiments of ardent piety and manly patriotism.—*See the County Annual Register, for 1809, p. 127.*

Besides these places of worship, there is, in this town, a Roman Catholic Chapel, near the walls, with a house for the priest, which was erected in 1776. This place succeeded a chapel in an upper room of an old house in St. Alkmund's Square. The Moravians, also, have a meeting in Cole Hall; and the Quakers and Wesleyan Methodists have places of worship on St. John's Hill.

Among the CHARITABLE FOUNDATIONS of Shrewsbury, the HOSPITAL of ST. GILES, in the Abbey Foregate, claims priority in point of origin. It existed as early as the reign of Henry the Second, who, if not the founder, was a benefactor to it. For the support of the lepers, to whose reception it was devoted, that king granted the toll of all corn and meal sold in Shrewsbury market, and an annual pension of thirty shillings out of his rent of the county of Salop. Henry the Third added the privilege of a horse-load of dead and dry wood, to be taken from his royal wood of Lythwood, every day by the hospital. In the existing state of this ancient foundation, the lepers are succeeded by four poor persons, who inhabit the same number of alms-houses, nearly adjoining the church of St. Giles, which, was doubtless, the chapel of the old hospital. They were re-built about a century ago. The office of "*master of the hospital*," is now held by the Earl of Tankerville, who nominates the alms-people, and pays 1s. 6d. weekly to each, with a certain allowance of coals, and an upper garment annually, the whole payment amounting to £19 per annum. The original donation, by Henry the Second, is still paid by the sheriff of the county, and is allowed to him in his "*cravings*" at the exchequer.

The hospital of St. John the Baptist and St. George stood in the suburb of Frankwell, or rather Frankville, at the extremity of the Welsh bridge. The first mention of it is in an old rental of the town, taken 30th of Henry the Third. The subsequent particulars of its history consist chiefly of benefactions at various periods, which do not require to be enumerated.

enumerated. In the reign of Edward the Sixth, this little asylum for indigence and age fell a sacrifice to the rapacity of the commissioners, and was dissolved. No traces of its site are at present to be found.

St. Chad's alms-houses were founded in 1409, on the south side of the cemetery, by Bennet Typton, a public brewer. The provision is now scarcely adequate to the support of the poor to whose use they are allotted. St. Mary's alms-houses, though better endowed than the preceding, are equally wretched and filthy. They are situated in a very central and much frequented thoroughfare, and, being a public nuisance, might well be removed without offence to the cause of charity.

MILLINGTON'S HOSPITAL, a respectable brick building, situated on an eminence at the extremity of Frankwell, was endowed by Mr. James Millington, a draper of Shrewsbury, who bequeathed nearly his whole fortune for this laudable purpose. It affords shelter and support to twelve poor persons, chosen from the single housekeepers within the suburb, or in the nearest part of St. Chad's parish. There are also provisions for the relief of out-pensioners, and for the cloathing, education, and apprenticing of forty poor children. Two exhibitions of £40 a year each, are founded for the students of Magdalene College, Cambridge.

The SALOP INFIRMARY in St. Mary's church-yard, originally a mansion-house, was formed in 1745, and has the honour of being one of the earliest institutions of the kind in the kingdom. Like most others, it is supported by voluntary subscriptions and benefactions. A great increase is made to the funds at each anniversary of the institution, which occurs on the Friday of the race-week, when the contributors attend the treasurer to church, where, after an appropriate sermon, a collection is made at the doors; the plates being held by two ladies, and two gentlemen, of distinguished rank and fortune. A stranger who witnesses this scene, cannot but revere the worthy and amiable character of the Salopians, who, even at

a season

a season of festivity and dissipation, can find leisure to fulfil the best duties of humanity.

The edifice is a plain handsome brick building, well adapted to the purposes of the institution, being situated on the verge of an eminence, which commands every advantage of salubrious air, and, what is, perhaps, in no small degree favourable to convalescents, delightful prospects. Its internal economy, and the gratuitous attendance of its medical supporters, enable it to challenge a comparison with any provincial establishment of the same kind.

The HOUSE OF INDUSTRY owes its origin to an asylum formerly opened in Dog Lane, for the reception of orphans from the Foundling Hospital in London. The governors of that institution, from the success of their exertions, were induced to enlarge their colony at Shrewsbury, and for this purpose, the building, now the House of Industry, was erected at their sole charge. It was begun in 1760, and finished in about five years, at an expence of more than £12,000. Children were sent down from London in great numbers, and put out to nurse with the neighbouring cottagers, under the inspection of the gentlemen in the vicinity. At a proper age they were taken into the house, where they were employed in the manufacture of wool, and afterwards placed out as apprentices. At one time, there were more than four hundred orphans in the hospital, under the care of superintendants and teachers.

Respecting two girls belonging to this institution, there is a curious and romantic story, related by Mr. Keir, the biographer of the benevolent but eccentric Mr. Day, and by Miss Seward, in her life of Dr. Darwin. With a mind ardently disposed to virtue, and a heart enthusiastically benevolent, Mr. Day during the period of his youth, was deluded by the fascinating eloquence of Rousseau, into a belief of his ingenious sophisms. The writings of that noted innovator, persuaded him that the human species was degraded by the perverse institutions of society, and that nothing could restore it to its
original

original dignity but a new system of education, by which children should be kept apart from the world, and be protected, by the innocence of ignorance, against its vices, its prejudices, and its artificial manners.

In Mr. Day's mind, a soil in which no seed fell unproductive, these notions took root, and soon produced an abundance of schemes, which on account of their impracticability were the subject of his own pleasantry at a maturer age. The most singular of them was an experiment on female education, in which he proposed to unite the pure delicacy of a modern female with the fortitude and bold simplicity of a Spartan virgin, which should despise the frivolity and dissipation of the present corrupted age. There was no finding such a creature ready made; he must mould some infant into the being which his philosophic reveries had imagined. With this view Mr. Day, attended by his friend Mr. Bicknel, a barrister, journeyed to Shrewsbury to explore the foundling hospital. From the little train, in the presence of his companion, he selected two girls of twelve years each; both beautiful; one fair, with flaxen locks and light eyes, whom he called Lucretia; the other a clear auburn brunette with darker eyes, more glowing bloom, and chesnut tresses, whom he named Sabrina. These girls were obtained on written conditions, for the performance of which Mr. Bicknel was guarantee. They were to this effect: that Mr. Day should, within the twelvemonth after taking them, resign one into the protection of some respectable tradeswoman, giving one hundred pounds to bind her apprentice, and if she behaved well, maintaining her until she married or began business for herself. Upon either of these events, he promised to advance one hundred pounds more. He avowed his intention of educating the girl he should retain, with a view to make her his future wife, solemnly engaged never to violate her innocence; and if he should renounce his plan, to maintain her decently in some respectable family until she married, when he promised five hundred pounds as her portion.

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Mr. Day went directly to France with his protégées, not taking an English servant, in order that they might receive no ideas but those which he chose to instil.—They teased and perplexed him ;—they quarrelled ;—they sickened of the small-pox, they chained him to their bed-side, by crying whenever he left them in the care of any person who could not speak English. He was obliged to sit up with them many nights, and to perform for them the meanest offices of tending. They however lost no beauty by disease. Soon after their recovery, while he was crossing the Rhone, with his wards, on a tempestuous day, the boat overset. Being an excellent swimmer, he with great personal difficulty and danger saved them both.

Mr. Day returned to England, after an absence of eight months. Sabrina having become the favourite, he placed Lucretia with a chamber milliner. She behaved well, and became the wife of a respectable linen-draper in London. With this favourite he actually proceeded some years in the execution of his project ; but experience and mature reflection at length convinced him, that his theory of education was impracticable, and he renounced all hope of moulding Sabrina after the model his fancy had formed. Yet, though he relinquished the idea of realizing Rousseau's visionary children of nature, he continued his protection and maintenance to both the girls. Ceasing to behold Sabrina as a wife, he placed her in a boarding-school at Sutton-Colefield in Warwickshire, where she remained three years, gained the esteem of her instructress, and grew feminine, elegant and amiable. After leaving school, she boarded some years near Birmingham, and subsequently at Newport, in Shropshire. Wherever she resided, wherever she paid visits, she secured to herself friends. Beautiful and admired, she passed the dangerous interval between sixteen and twenty-five without incurring one reflection on her character,—one stain on her discretion. Mr. Day corresponded with her parentally ; but seldom saw her, and never
without

without witnesses. In her twenty-sixth year, she married Mr. Bicknell, the gentleman who had accompanied her guardian to Shrewsbury, and had guaranteed the performance of his stipulations.

The funds of the Foundling Hospital being inadequate to the extensive plan of branching out the charity into various counties, the managers ceased to send children to the provincial establishments, and the Shrewsbury house was consequently shut up. In this state it remained for some years, when, after being partly used as a woollen manufactory, it was converted into a receptacle for prisoners of war. The rapid increase of the parochial rates of Shrewsbury induced the inhabitants to petition parliament for an act to incorporate the five parishes of the town and Meole Brace, as far as concerned the poor, and to establish a general House of Industry. In 1784 they purchased the Orphan Hospital from the governors of the Foundling charity, and having annexed to it twenty acres of good land, they converted it into an asylum for the poor. The average number maintained in the house, including children, is about two hundred and seventy-five. The internal regulations, which regard their employment and maintenance, are of the most judicious kind, and afford a provision for those who, from temporary distress and disability, require assistance and relief at their own houses. Considerable advantages hence arise, in the improved management of children, and in the check given to the abuses of the former system of parochial expenditure.*

VOL. XIII.

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* We regret exceedingly that our limits forbid enlargement on the history and internal regulations of this admirable charity; the more so, as in this instance, our materials are not scanty, nor difficult of access. Mr. Isaac Wood's excellent pamphlet, entitled, "Some Account of the Shrewsbury House of Industry," has passed through five editions, and is a work perfectly characteristic of the mind and heart of the author, whose death, a few years ago, was a subject of the deepest sorrow to the poor of his town, and to all who had the honour of his friendship or acquaintance. The house, says Mr. Wood, had the honour of a visit from the justly celebrated

The house is a spacious and handsome structure of brick, situated on a noble eminence, opposite the Quarry, and commands a fine view of the town, its suburbs, and the whole range of mountains in Salop, Montgomery, and Denbigh, with a wide expanse of the interjacent plain.

Of the FREE SCHOOLS and seminaries in this town, the first, of which any record remains, was in the ancient Saxon college of St. Peter, where, as was before observed, one of our best early English historians, Ordericus Vitalis, was educated. He was the son of Odelirius, a priest of Attingham, (Atcham) where he was born in 1074. At five years of age he was sent to the seminary of St. Peter, at Scrobbesbyrig, to which his father was a large benefactor. Here he remained until he attained his tenth year, when he was placed in the Benedictine abbey of Uticum, in Normandy, where, in his eleventh year, he received the tonsure of the order, and was then named Vitalis, because his first acceptance of the rule of St. Benedict happened on that saint's day. His great ecclesiastical work is a history of his own times, of which a fragment was published by Camden, in the collection of English historians sent to the press by him from Frankfort in 1603. He called it the *Caen fragment*, and supposed it to have been written by William de Poictou, archdeacon of Lésieux. The whole work was printed by Du Chesne, in his grand and accurate edition of Norman writers.

By the suppression of this seminary, at the dissolution of the Abbey, the town was left without any establishment for public education,

celebrated Mr. Howard, in his excursion through this part of the kingdom. Not only the apartments, but the paupers themselves, particularly the children, underwent a very critical examination. He obliged many of the latter to take off their shoes and stockings, and shew him the soles of their feet. At the same time, he expressed much pleasure and satisfaction; and he afterwards made a very handsome report of it, in one of his last publications. "*Some Account, &c.*" fifth edition (1800), p. 33. This intimation of the opinion of this renowned philanthropist, will not fail to produce in the mind of the reader the most favourable ideas of the Shrewsbury House of Industry.

education, until the inhabitants, encouraged by the munificence of Edward the Sixth in refounding the free school of Wellington in this county, represented their necessities to that monarch, who acceded to their request, and granted certain tythes from the former possessions of St. Mary's and St. Chad's, for the endowment of a school under the title of the Free Grammar School of King Edward the Sixth. Two masters were appointed; and the bishop of Lichfield, with the bailiffs and burgesses, were nominated governors. Queen Elizabeth greatly augmented her brother's donation, by giving the whole rectory of Chirbury, with additional tythes and estates belonging to St. Mary's. She conferred a second liberal donation at the instance of the excellent Thomas Ashton, master of the school, a descendant probably of the ancient family of that name in Lancashire. As a proof of the flourishing state of the establishment under him, it is recorded, that he had two hundred and ninety scholars, a number rarely exceeded by the great foundations of Westminster, Eton, and Winchester. Many of the first persons in the kingdom committed their youth to Mr. Ashton's tuition; among the rest, Sir Henry Sidney, lord deputy of Ireland and president of the marches, sent his son, the afterwards illustrious Sir Philip Sydney, who here laid the foundation of his friendship with the celebrated Sir Fulk Greville, Lord Brooke. They were both entered at Shrewsbury schools on the same day. For the improvement of his pupils, Mr. Ashton instituted occasional dramatic exhibitions. Of one of these an ancient manuscript gives the following account:

“ This yeare, 1568, at Whytsuntyde, was a notable stage playe, played at Shrosbery, which lastyd all the holy dayes, unto which cam greate numbers of people, of noblemen and others,*

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* Among other inducements, the expectation of seeing the Queen, might have brought a considerable portion of this great multitude to Shrewsbury. The curiosity of Elizabeth had been excited by the fame of Ashton, and in 1575 she advanced as far as Lichfield, on her way thither, when intelligence reached her, that the plague, of which she had a great dread, had broken

out

the which was prayسد gretely; and the chyffe auctor thereof was one Master Aston, being the head scoolemaster of the free scoole there, a godly and lerenyd man,* who took marvellous pains therein."

Churchyard, in his verses written about this time, mentions the plays, and describes the rural theatre in the quarry, on which they were represented :

"I had such haste, in hope to be but brefe,
That monuments in churches were forgot,
And somewhat more, behind the walls as chiefe
Where playes have been, which is most worthy note.
There is a ground new made, theatre wyse,
Both deepe and hye, in goodlie auncient guyse;
Where well may sit ten thousand men at ease,—
And yet the one, the other, not displease.
A place belowe, to hayte both bull and beare
For players too, greate roume and place at wyll.
And in the same a coke-pit wondrous fayre,
Besides where, men may wrestle to their fill."†

Mr. Ashton, on his resignation, drew up a code of laws by which the school was governed for two centuries. He bestowed on it a considerable donation, and took a paternal concern in its interests to the latest period of his life. A short time previous to his death he revisited it, and preached a sermon to the inhabitants of the town, which drew the sincere homage of their tears and blessings. After this farewell, he returned to his residence in the vicinity of Cambridge, where he died at the end of a fortnight, 1578.

Few vocations are more useful and honourable than that of public
out in this neighbourhood, on which she changed her route and proceeded to Worcester. Owen.

* Churchyard, also, in a marginal note, calls "Maister Astone, a goode and godlie preacher."

† Dramatic exhibitions were, in very early times, performed as school exercises. In 1378, the singing-boys of St. Paul's represented to the King, that they had been at considerable expence in preparing a stage representation at Christmas. MALONE'S *Historical Account of the English Stage*.

public education, but the labours which attend it are of a nature so retired and unobtrusive, that they never obtain their due meed of applause from the world. The pages of history commemorate the plunderers and despoilers of mankind, but, on the true benefactors of society, such as Ashton, they are wholly silent. Yet, a name so venerable as his, ought never to be obliterated from the memory of the Salopians, while the exertions of patient industry, directed by learning, and exalted by piety, shall claim the gratitude and veneration of posterity.

In the list of eminent persons who have more recently presided over the free school of Shrewsbury, may be distinguished the Rev. Charles Newling, to whose respectable character, many persons now living, who were educated under him, can bear testimony. He resigned in 1770, having been presented, by Archbishop Cornwallis, to the rectory of St. Philip's, in Birmingham, which he enjoyed with the annexed prebend and treasurer'ship of the Cathedral of Lichfield, and the first portion of the rectory of Westbury, in this county.

The decline of this noble foundation, partly attributable to certain defects in the ancient rules and ordinaries, was remedied by an act of parliament in 1798, "for the better government and regulation of the free grammar school of Shrewsbury." The management of the revenues, and the removal or discharge of school-masters, were by this act vested in the bishop of Lichfield and Coventry as visitor, and in thirteen trustees or governors, of whom the mayor, for the time being, is one. The appointment of masters rests solely in St. John's college, Cambridge.

The school is a large substantial structure of free-stone, surrounding two sides of a court, with a square pinnaced tower in the angle. The original school-room was built of timber, and the present chapel, tower, and library, were added in the year 1595. The wooden building was taken down, and in 1630 its place was supplied by the present stately edifice, of Grinshill stone. In the centre is a gateway, adorned on each side by a rude Corin-

thian column, supporting statues of a scholar and a graduate, in the costume of the times. Over the arch is a Greek inscription from Isocrates :

Ἐὰν ᾗς φιλομαθὴς ἔσῃ πολυμαθὴς ;

meaning that a love of learning is necessary to a scholar. Above are the arms of Charles the Second. The windows, except one at the south end, in the pointed style, are all of the square form, introduced in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, or perhaps earlier. The whole structure is probably one of the latest specimens of that fashionable but incongruous mode of building which prevailed in the 16th and 17th centuries, and exhibits that mixture of styles, "wherein the Grecian and the pointed, however discordant and irreconcilable, are jumbled together, and compose a fantastic species, hardly assignable to any class or name."* The ground floor on one side the gateway, contains a room, originally used as the accident school, on the other, the house now given by the head master to his assistant. In the middle story are comprised the lodging-rooms of the assistant's house, and a writing apartment. The principal school-room, which occupies the upper story, was originally divided by three partitions with folding doors, but these being removed, it forms a very spacious and noble apartment. The chapel, on the ground-floor, at the other part of the building, has a very handsome open screen of oak, and a pulpit embellished with the grotesque carving of Queen Elizabeth's days. The ceiling was, in 1798, adorned with embossed fretwork, consisting of a variety of foliage and devices, preserved from the ruins of St. Alkmund's church. Over the chapel, and of the same size, is the library, which, from its early erection, was probably intended as a public compensation for the loss of various ecclesiastical libraries in the convents and colleges of the county. It contains a most valuable collection of books in MSS., and, in size and decoration, is in no respect inferior to the greater number of those in the universities.

* Walpole's Anecdotes of Painting.

versities. The windows are decorated with arms and inscriptions of the founders and principal benefactors. Several portraits ornament the walls, among which are distinguished, a half length of Henry the Eighth and of his son, Edward the Sixth, when a boy of ten or twelve ; a full length of an admiral, (probably Benbow) in the dress of Charles the Second's reign.

Among the curiosities are three sepulchral stones, discovered in plowing a field near Wroxeter, of which a correct description is given by Mr. Pennant :

The largest has on its summit a pine-cone between two lions, and beneath the pediment a rose. The first is taken from the *Picea*, called by Pliny, *Feralis Arbor*, expressive of its melancholy subject, and not unfrequent on memorials of this kind. Such was the great brass cone, five yards high, which crowned the mausoleum of Adrian, now the tower of St. Angelo, and is still preserved in the gardens of the Belvedere. The inscription denotes the death of C. MANNIVUS SECUNDUS, of the town of Pollentia, a *beneficiarius*, or veteran of the twentieth legion, who had served his time, and was called again into service by the intreaties of the chief legate.

The second stone has, on the upper part, a human face, two dolphins, and two serpents. Beneath are three pannels. In the first, is commemorated by her husband, *Placida*, aged fifty-five, and thirty years his wife. In the next, is an inscription to Deuccus, a boy fifteen years old, son to the same person, *Cur. agente patre*. The third pannel is a blank ; so, it is probable, that the man who had erected this monument, designed to be buried in the same place with his wife and son, but dying elsewhere, this pannel remained unfilled.

The third stone is inscribed to M. Petronius, Signifer, or standard bearer, to the *Legio quatuor-decima gemina*, the fourteenth double legion, or a legion formed from two. As this legion never was in Britain, the learned Dr. Ward*

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guesses

* See his account of these three stones in the Philosophical Transactions, Vol. XLIX. part 1. 196.

guesses that Petronius only came for his health, and died here.*

A few other Roman antiquities, chiefly from Wroxeter, are deposited in a small museum, separated from the lower end of the room. Here are also some fossils, and other natural curiosities. Among the latter is the dried body of a sturgeon, caught in the Severn, a little below the castle, in 1802. When alive, it weighed one hundred and ninety-two pounds, and was nine feet long, and three feet four inches round. It was healthy and full of spawn, and though in struggling the bones of the head were fractured, it lived a day and a night, after being taken out of the water, a circumstance almost as extraordinary as its passage of three hundred miles, up the river from the sea. In front of the schools, on the town side, is an inclosed play-ground; there is also a considerable portion of land for the same purpose in the interior part of the premises, with two commodious houses for the masters.

Besides Sir Philip Sydney and his friend, many persons of eminence received their education at this school. Among them may be mentioned the notorious Lord Chancellor Jefferies. As Salop was not disgraced by giving birth to this English Robespierre, it would, perhaps, be out of place here to enter into any length of detail on his life and character. We cannot, however, resist the opportunity of casting our mite into the treasury of contempt and abhorrence, formed in the breasts of every friend to justice and humanity, for the memory of so execrable a man. He was the sixth son of John Jefferies, and was born at Acton in Denbighshire. Having acquired the rudiments of learning at Shrewsbury, he was removed to Westminster, from which, chiefly supported by his grandmother, he was placed in the Inner Temple, where, it is said, he studied the law with great application;† but Bishop Burnet says “he was not learned in his profession, and that his

* Pennant's Wales, Vol. III. 240, 241, edition 1810.

† Lives of the Chancellors.

his eloquence, though viciously copious, was neither correct nor agreeable.”* Pennant, however, calls him “a man of first-rate abilities in his profession;”† though he afterwards says, that Jefferies had not the benefit of an academic education, and was never regularly called to the bar; but, that taking advantage of the paucity of pleaders at the Kingston assizes, occasioned by the fear of the plague, in 1666, he put on a law-gown, and, without notice, assumed and maintained the honours and emoluments of a regular bench. Whatever were his talents as a lawyer, his character, as a monster of cruelty, has long been fully established. In him were united whatever could deform humanity, or excite a feeling of indignation in the hearts of the good and virtuous.‡ His cruelties on the Western Circuit, after the defeat of Monmouth, almost exceed credibility; but this is not the place to detail them.¶ It is proper, however, to state, that his remains were discovered in the year 1810, by some workmen employed to repair the church of St. Mary, Aldermanbury. It is well known that Jefferies died shortly after his committal to the Tower, either of the bruises he had received from the enraged populace, or of the effects of excessive drinking. He had previously resided in Aldermanbury, and his body, it now appears, remained a considerable time in the Tower, when it was privately interred by his family in this church. The discovery of the remains of so infamous a man greatly excited the public curiosity, and awakened

* Own Time.

† Tour in Wales. The Portrait of Jefferies, by Sir Godfrey Kneller, mentioned by Pennant as being at Acton Park, now (1811) the seat of Sir Forster Cunliffe, Bart. is removed, along with that of his brother, to Erddig.

‡ It is somewhat remarkable, that he should decline in favour and interest at court, owing to his steady, or obstinate, attachment to the Protestant faith. Was Jefferies, after all, deficient in that perfection of villany—hypocrisy?

¶ See Beauties of England and Wales, Vol. X, 466, et seq.

awakened recollections as disgraceful to the memory of James the Second, as they are honourable to the mild administration of justice under George the Third. After the popular feeling had been gratified, the coffin was replaced, and the stone is now fastened over it.

The next person of note is, Dr. John Thomas, Bishop of Salisbury, a native of this town. Some curious particulars, relating to this prelate, are mentioned by Bishop Newton. It appears that there were two persons of that name not easily to be distinguished, for somebody was speaking of Dr. Thomas, when it was asked, "Which Dr. Thomas do you mean?"—"Dr. John Thomas."—"They are both named John."—"Dr. Thomas who has a living in the city."—"They have both livings in the city."—"Dr. Thomas who is chaplain to the king."—"They are both chaplains to the king."—"Dr. Thomas who is a very good preacher."—"They are both very good preachers."—"Dr. Thomas who squints."—"They both squint."—They were afterwards both bishops. Dr. Thomas was chaplain to the English factory at Hamburgh, and was accustomed to go from thence to wait on George the Second, at Hanover, on that king's frequent visits to his electorate. He was much favoured by royal patronage, and advanced rapidly in ecclesiastical preferment. At a period when the deanery of Peterborough became vacant, he kissed hands for it at Hanover; at the same time the Duke of Newcastle wrote from England to inform him, that he had engaged that deanery, and that if the doctor would wave his claim, a better should be procured for him. The doctor wrote for answer, he could not decently decline the royal favour of the deanery, but that his grace might vacate it by giving him a better thing as soon as he pleased. In 1743, he was nominated to the see of St. Asaph, but before consecration, removed in the subsequent year to Lincoln, and was translated to Salisbury, in 1761. He was celebrated for wit and facetiousness.

The Rev. John Taylor, LL. D., a learned critic and philologist,

logist, was born at Shrewsbury, in June, 1704. It is interesting to notice the steps by which this respectable person rose from obscurity to the eminent station he afterwards so ably filled. His father, who followed the humble occupation of a barber, was accustomed to attend Mr. Owen, of Cundover, who occasionally made enquiries into the state of his family, the calling for which he designed his son, &c. The honest old man, in reply to these enquiries, frequently lamented the untoward disposition of his son Jack, who, he said, could never be got to dress a wig or shave a beard, so perpetually was he poring over his books. Mr. Owen was induced by the repetition of these complaints to favour the laudable propensities of young Taylor, by sending him to St. John's College, Cambridge, where he pursued his studies, and regularly took his degrees. In one of his visits to his native county, he unfortunately lost the favour of his patron, by refusing to drink a Jacobite toast on his bare knees, as was then the custom among the tory-gentry of Salop. All hopes of sharing the extensive church patronage, at that time enjoyed by the Cundover family, being now lost, he felt inclined to abandon the clerical profession for the practice of a civilian. In the solid reputation which his studies gained him at the university, he found ample consolation for his disappointment. After having distinguished himself by various compositions, he, for a short time, held the office of librarian, and was afterwards appointed registrar. It does not appear that he pursued his design of studying the civil law, though he was resident in London in 1739, at which time his celebrated edition of Lysias appeared. In 1740, he took his degree of LL. D. The subject he chose for his act, was an ordinance mentioned by Aulus Gellius, on the authority of the ancient jurists, by which, according to the law of the Twelve Tables, the body of the insolvent debtor was to be cut in pieces, and distributed among his creditors. Dr. Taylor undertook to shew, that the *property*, and not the *person*,

person, was liable to this division; and his commentary, though it failed of producing entire conviction, confirmed and exalted the opinion already entertained of his erudition and ingenuity. In the following year, he wrote a treatise on a Greek inscription, found on a marble brought from Delos, by Lord Sandwich. He also published the only extant oration of Lysurgus, and one from Demosthenes. The volume was intended as a specimen of his projected edition of the great orator. While engaged in this laborious undertaking, he received an accession of dignity and emolument, being appointed, in 1744, chancellor of the diocese of Lincoln, by the bishop, Dr. John Thomas. To the third volume of the work, he prefixed a long and elegant dedication to his patron, Lord Granville; in which, after drawing a parallel between Demosthenes, as engaged in exciting Athens to a vigorous resistance against Philip, and Lord Granville as engaged in opposing the despotism of France, he proceeds:—"The Athenian orator openly declared, that he would never consent to make peace with Philip, till he had lost not merely his animosity, but the power of doing hurt. And shall we, so nearly resembling that state in the posture of our affairs, differ by the weakness and inconstancy of our councils! Or shall we, equal as we are to them in the glory and authority of our dominion, superior in felicity and fortune, shall we estimate at a lower rate than they, the dignity of our country, the welfare of our people, the security of our allies, the freedom of our constitution?—No, by those, who oppressed by numbers, but unsubdued in spirit, died for the general liberty of Greece on the plains of Chæronea?—No, by those who with better success, under the command of his Majesty, repelled the common enemy of Europe, in the field of Dettingen!" This elegant apostrophe bears a striking allusion to the affairs of the present day, when the power of France has assumed a form more gigantic and overbearing, while the resistance of England presents the only barrier to her acquisition of universal empire,

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The energy of Demosthenes could not save Athens; but the example of her downfall ought rather to rouse than to appal us; for the struggle of free men against a despot can never be unsuccessful, if they remain steadfast in their will to be free.

In the course of his literary life, Dr. Taylor experienced the steady friendship and support of Lord Granville. His work on the elements of civil law, originated during the education of two grandsons of that nobleman. It contained some animadversions on certain points in the Divine Legation of Moses, and, of course, provoked the indignation of Warburton. A more marked offence is said to have been given by Taylor, in an opinion thrown out in company, derogatory to the character of Warburton as a scholar, who, on being informed of it, frankly interrogated our critic on the subject. Dr. Taylor is said to have replied, that he did not recollect ever saying that Dr. Warburton was no scholar, but that, indeed, he had always thought so. The vengeance of the haughty dogmatist was soon after poured forth, in the preface to a new edition of his great work, in which he abused the literary character of Dr. Taylor, with all the virulent wit, and rude irony which he could command. The industrious philologist was too well employed to repel this unjustifiable attack; and being sensible it could hurt no one but its author, wisely abstained from noticing it. In May, 1757, he published his second volume of Demosthenes; and, in the following July, he was made a canon residentiary of St. Paul's, through the influence of his noble patron. Though his ardour of research was probably abated by this increase of emolument and dignity, he still proceeded to collect and arrange materials for the first volume of his Demosthenes; but the expectations of the learned world were frustrated by his death, which took place in 1766, before he had prepared his work for the press.

In private life, Dr. Taylor was remarkably amiable and social. His temper was genial and lively, and though studiously devoted

devoted to letters, the even tenor of his employments gave him an uninterrupted flow of spirits.* In this respect he resembled the celebrated historian of the Roman empire, who was no less distinguished by his indefatigable application and laborious research, than by the ease with which he could adapt his eminent talents to enliven and cheer the domestic circle. Such examples are by no means of rare occurrence, and, if better known, they would serve to correct a very prevailing notion, that literary pursuits have a tendency to unfit men for the duties and pleasures of social life. With this prejudice, Dr. Johnson seems to have been unaccountably impressed, when he ventured, on the experience of a single evening, to give the following character of this eminent scholar: "Demosthenes Taylor, as he was called, (that is, the editor of Demosthenes,) was the most silent man, the merest statue of a man, that I have ever seen. I once dined in company with him, and all he said during the whole time, was no more than *Richard*. How a man should say only Richard, it is not easy to imagine. But it was thus: Dr. Douglas was talking of Dr. Zachary Grey, and ascribing to him something that was written by Dr. Richard Grey; so, to correct him, Taylor said, (imitating his sententious emphasis and nod,) 'Richard.'"† If the character of Johnson were to be judged, in

* This estimable trait in his character has been happily illustrated by an intimate friend and fellow collegian of his: "If you called on him, in college, after dinner, you were sure to find him sitting at an old walnut table, covered with books; yet when you began to make apologies for disturbing a person so well employed, he immediately told you to advance, and called out, 'John, John, bring pipes and glasses,' and instantly appeared as cheerful and good-humoured, as if he had not been at all interrupted. Suppose now you had stayed as long as you would, and had been entertained by him most agreeably, you took your leave and got half way down stairs, but recollecting somewhat that you had to say to him, you go in again, the bottles and glasses were gone,—the books had expanded themselves so as to re-occupy the whole table; and he was just as much buried in them as when you first came in." *Anecdotes of Boyer*, p. 66.

† Boswell's Life of Johnson, Vol. III. p. 343, 8vo. Edit. 1804.

in this way, from the testimonies of those whom his behaviour in company disgusted and offended, it would lose much of its dignity and lustre. In the present instance it is easy to imagine, that Taylor, not liking his company, chose to be silent, in order to avoid a vexatious encounter with an ungovernable dogmatist, who, rather than not talk at all, would often talk on the wrong side.

Edward Waring, M. D. Lucasian professor of mathematics, descended from an ancient family at Mitton, in the parish of Fittes, was born in 1734, received his education at Shrewsbury schools, and was sent, on one of the Millington exhibitions, to Magdalen college, Cambridge. He there applied with such assiduity to the mathematics, that, on taking his Bachelor's degree, in 1757, he was the *senior wrangler*, or the most distinguished graduate, of the year. Two years afterwards he was elected Lucasian professor, an appointment which, as it had been honoured with the names of Newton, Saunderson, and Barrow, was considered, by the seniors of the university, as too high for so young a man. In vindication of his scientific character, Mr. Waring published his *Miscellanea Analytica*, the first chapter of which occasioned a pretty long controversy. The work was afterwards published from the university press, in quarto, under the title of "*Miscellanea Analytica de Æquationibus Algebraicis et Curvarum proprietatibus*," with a dedication to the Duke of Newcastle. It was considered by Euler, D'Alembert, and other eminent contemporary mathematicians, as a book full of excellent and interesting discoveries in Algebra. Mr. Waring chose medicine as a profession, and obtained a doctor's degree, in 1767. It does not appear that he ever enjoyed very extensive practice, nor indeed was he solicitous about it, since, besides the emoluments of his professorship, he possessed a handsome patrimonial fortune, and had leisure to occupy and amuse himself with his favourite science. In 1776, he married a lady of respectable family in Shrewsbury, and not many years afterwards retired to his estate at Plealey, near Pontesbury,

tesbury, in this county. He employed his leisure hours in mathematical enquiries, and, occasionally, in the more popular branches of philosophy. In 1794 he printed, at Cambridge, the result of his lucubrations, in a volume, entitled, "An Essay on the Principles of Human Knowledge," which was never published. The title-page designates him, Fellow of the Royal Society of London, and of those of Bologna and Gottingen. Dr. Waring thus enjoyed the "*otium cum dignitate*," interrupted only by occasional visits to the Board of Longitude, in London, of which he was a member; and from these he always returned with fresh relish to his rural retreat at Plealey. He died in 1798, after a short illness, in the sixty-fourth year of his age.

Here are three institutions for the free education of the poor. BOWDLER'S CHARITY SCHOOL was founded in 1724, by Mr. Thomas Bowdler, alderman, and draper, for the instruction, cloathing, and apprenticing, of poor children in the parish of St. Julian's. The SUBSCRIPTION CHARITY SCHOOL, was established for similar purposes, in 1708, by the town at large. It is situated near the Abbey church. ALLATT'S CHARITY SCHOOL, the latest and best of the three, was instituted in 1798, by Mr. John Allatt, many years chamberlain of the corporation, who bequeathed his fortune, including his garden at the bottom of Swan Hill, to endow and erect two schools for the education of poor children of the town of Shrewsbury, the parents of whom have not received parochial relief, besides a sum to be laid out annually in coats and gowns for poor old men and widows. The seminary is a plain but elegant structure, of free-stone, having two commodious houses united to the school-rooms by arcades. The expense of the erection was about £2000; the interest of the residue maintains the master and mistress, who instruct twenty boys, and as many girls, in reading, writing, and arithmetic, and the girls in sewing. They are cloathed twice a year, and at a proper age apprenticed.* It

* The first, and present, master of this school is Mr. George Bagley, a man whose energetic and ardent mind has triumphed over the disadvantages

It is not certain at what period the first Town, or Guild, Hall, for Shrewsbury, was erected. It is, however, highly probable that neither this, nor any other town, would remain long without some place appropriated to the purposes of public justice and the management of the regular affairs of police. The most rational conjecture is, that the assizes were anciently held in the castle, and that the first regular building was erected near the site of the present Town Hall, soon after the borough was first incorporated.*

In the reign of Edward the Second, the "Boothe Halle," was seized by the king, under pretence of its having been erected illegally. So that it would seem it could not have been then long built. The burgesses, pleading that the powers of their charter, enabled them to improve the town in any way they might deem expedient, the "Halle" was restored to them. By a deed of the thirtieth of Henry the Sixth, A.D. 1452, it appears, that forty marks out of the "town stock" were allowed towards the erection of a new Hall; the old one to be pulled down, and the new one to be built with a tower over the exchequer. From the books belonging to the corporation, we learn, that the "Boothe Halle" was re-edified in the twenty-second year of Henry the Eighth, and this was probably the building which remained until it gave place to the present structure.†

The old Town Hall was a large, but low, timber building, with a clock turret, and stood across the present square, at right angles, with about the centre of the space now occupied

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of obscure birth and limited means, and has cultivated, by dint of inborn sagacity and unwearied industry, the liberal sciences of music, philology and the mathematics. He has lately published a grammatical synopsis of the principal languages, ancient and modern. Like most men of self-taught acquirements, he is a little tinctured with theory, but his speculations are frequently judicious, and always interesting.

* Phillips, 133. Owen, 401.

† Ib.

by the new hall. The rooms on the ground-floor were let out for shops, and a covered passage for carriages communicated with the High-street. Over these was a low room, called the Hall. It was 63 feet by $25\frac{1}{2}$. In this room the assizes, sessions, and other courts, were held. Adjoining this, at right angles, was a more spacious apartment, called the green room; or, as Phillips remarks, "more properly the agreeing room, or chamber of concord." This was also used as an assembly and card room, and at the south end was the exchequer, where the mayor held his courts, and where the archives of the corporation were deposited. This apartment was built in 1490, and was a strong stone building. It appears that the arms of Spain were at one time among the decorations of this room; for an old MS. chronicle states, that "in the yeare 1588 the Spanish navye cam upon the sea towards Englande, was by God hys just judgement destroyed. The armes of Spaine were the nexte morning fallen clene downe in the excheqour in Salopp, and was never putt up againe to this daie: a thinge verie remarkable." These arms, thus indignant at the defeat of the *invincible Armada*, were probably those of Philip of Spain, set up on his marriage with our Queen Mary.

At the summer assizes, in 1783, in consequence of the pressing remonstrances of Mr. Baron Hotham, enforced by the threat of a fine upon the county, it was determined to erect a new hall for the county, and an act of parliament was obtained, in the year following, for this purpose. To render the new building more handsome and commodious, and to remove the inconvenience occasioned by the old one standing across the street of the most resort, several houses, together with the ancient tower of the exchequer, were taken down, and various other improvements made in the adjacent parts. The present Hall was completed in 1785, and first used at the summer assizes of the same year. It was designed by Mr. Haycock of Shrewsbury, and the whole expence, raised by a coun-

ty rate, amounted to about £11,000.* It has a handsome stone front to the street. The ground floor consists of a vestibule, and two courts for the assizes. Under that appropriated to the crown bar is a cell, for the reception of prisoners. A beautiful spiral stone staircase leads to the higher story, where is a large room for county meetings, an apartment for grand juries, with record and other offices. In the great room is kept a valuable and increasing subscription library, which has been instituted more than twenty years.†

In the grand jury room there are portraits of George the

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First

* Owen.

† It becomes our duty in this place to pay another tribute to the open liberality of the Salopians.—They who have visited our principal literary establishments in the metropolis, such as the London Institution, the British Museum, &c. must have experienced great inconvenience from the strict regulations which regard not only the admission into the libraries, but the use of the books they contain. In the London Institution, the stranger is, in the first instance, required to produce a written order from a proprietor; he has next to write down the titles of the works he may have occasion to refer to, and he is entirely prohibited from taking down and replacing other works which might casually aid him in collating authorities. No doubt these limitations have been rendered highly necessary by the many depredations which have from time to time been committed on this most valuable species of public property. But a more effectual, and not much more expensive mode of prevention would be to increase the number of attendants in the several apartments, which would at the same time multiply the means of accommodation. Such a practice prevails in similar institutions at Paris—but without going so far for an example, we may truly say, “they order these things better” in Salop. An attendant is always in waiting at the library for the purpose of receiving and exchanging the books of the subscribers, and for preventing any improper use of the volumes by those who come thither to read. A stranger who wishes to visit the library, if he be of decent appearance, is not required to go through the formalities of a written introduction, and he is at liberty to consult any of the books that are at hand, and to stay as long as he pleases, while the library is open. May no particular abuse give occasion for a general abolition of this privilege!

First and Second, and one of Admiral Benbow. The portrait of George the First, was given by Mr. Edward Elisha, in 1772; that of George the Second, by Thomas Wingfield, Esq. formerly clerk of the peace for the county, and the portrait of the gallant Admiral, by his sister, Mrs. Eleanor Hind,* who died in May, 1724.

THE COUNTY GAOL was originally, as Mr. Owen conjectures, in the castle precinct, until that fortress became so ruinous as to be insecure. In 1536, application was made to the corporation for permission that "the sheriff might have hys countie jale wythin the town hencefoorth," which was granted him. It appears, however, that the insecurity of the castle rendered it necessary to have the gaol apart from that fortress; accordingly, the prison was placed on the left-hand of the space, between the two north castle gates, now occupied by the buildings called Windsor Square. A new gaol was erected, in 1705, at the back of Castle Street, behind the turning to School Lane, of which Mr. Howard has given some account in his Survey. In this

* In the western entrance of St. Mary's church, is a flat stone with this inscription:

Here lyeth the Body
of Mrs. ELINOR
HIND, Relict of the
Late Mr. Samuel Hind,
Grocer, and Sister of
the late Renowned
ADMIRAL BENBOW.

She Departed
this life, 24th May,
ANNO
1724,
Aged.....

Mrs. Hind is supposed to have kept a coffee-house near St. Mary's churchyard, in Castle Street. In her house, over the fire-place, hung a portrait of her uncle, Colonel Thomas Benbow. OWEN, p. 419.

this prison, numerous irregularities prevailed.—The gaoler was suffered to keep an ale-house, and the place, altogether, was both wretched in its accommodation, and, like many other houses of *correction* and punishment, at once the seat, and the seminary of wickedness.*

In 1786, an act was obtained for the erection of a county gaol, after the plan of the humane Howard. The spot on which the prison now stands, was pointed out by Mr. Blackburne; and Mr. Haycock, of Shrewsbury, furnished the approved plan. The building was completed in 1793, at an expence of about £30,000, towards which, the old gaol was sold by auction. The pleasant terrace on the south side the prison wall, was soon afterwards made.

The gaol is entirely separate from the town, and a little detached from the Castle. It stands on a beautiful and salubrious cliff of dry gravel over the river. The building is of brick, and possesses every appropriate excellence. It is spacious, airy, and well supplied with water. The entrance is by a free-stone gate, on each side of which is a lodge, and over the arch is a fine bust of Howard, by Bacon, presented by the late Thomas Knight, of Henley, and Rowland Hunt, Esqrs. two active and intelligent magistrates of the county.

The internal regulations of this prison correspond with its neat, if not ornamental, exterior. Before any prisoners are admitted, they are taken into reception cells, furnished in the lodge, where they are thoroughly cleansed of such filth as usually attaches itself to the idle and the profligate. After they have thus performed a sort of quarantine at the lodge, they are conducted to their respective classes, and all those charged criminally, are cloathed in the prison uniform, which is a woollen

K 3

jacket,

* It is lamentable and disgusting to witness the scenes of vice and intemperance which are daily exhibited in many of our large prisons. The Fleet, and its court yard, have more the appearance of a brothel, and an amphitheatre for savage sports, than of a place designed for the punishment of the guilty, and the security of the refractory.

jacket, waistcoat, and cap, the former ornamented with blue and yellow stripes before conviction, and afterwards changed for one of brown and yellow.*

The executions take place on the flat roof of the northern lodge, "when all the culprits† are drawn out into the area before it, to behold the awful scene."

In the keeper's house, which is in the middle of the west front of the prison, facing the gate, is an apartment for the use of the magistrates. The chapel stands in the centre of the whole, and is contrived so as to separate every class of prisoners, (a very just and humane regulation!) yet, so that the minister may be seen by all the congregation. It is a neat, well-constructed, octagonal building.

With the exception, as we conceive, of the blue-striped jacket uniform, the management of this prison is worthy of imitation by all similar establishments. The licentious practices of many old goals are totally abolished; and no incentives to the indulgence of vice, are here held out to vagabonds out of doors, not having filled the measure of their iniquity,

* As, by the laws of England, every person is to be considered innocent till the sentence of his peers, after a fair trial, shall have pronounced him guilty, it is a matter of doubt, whether this custom is not somewhat tinctured with injustice. It is, certainly, a punishment of no small magnitude to the innocent, to be thus "numbered with transgressors;" nor will any sentence of acquittal, subsequently given, entirely wipe off the impressions, which these badges of disgrace must have made on the minds of such persons.—Confinement, itself, though often absolutely necessary to the ends of justice, is a punishment altogether undeserved by those who are entirely acquitted by the law:—at least, so we ought to presume. Is it not, therefore, additionally hard, to be compelled to bear such outward and visible marks of guilt before trial, as these *ex parte* habiliments evidently convey to strangers, visiting these abodes of wretchedness? It is greatly to be feared, that the "blue stripes" of innocence will not be deemed sufficiently distinct from the "brown" ones of guilt, and that no evidence of the accused having deserved a better fate, will ever afterwards obliterate these conspicuous "marks of the Beast."

† Are the "blue" "culprits," also, thus drawn out?

iniquity, or become sufficiently qualified for the constant society of the avowedly guilty. All the prisoners, according to the nature and measure of their crimes, are classed, and their respective classes kept apart from each other; as are also the male from the female prisoners. Here are no dark and dreary dungeons—no damp and noxious cells:—Cold and nakedness, filth and vice are, as much as possible, guarded against; whilst every inducement to repentance, reformation, and morality, is held out. Even the galling and disgraceful restraints of irons, are in this prison dispensed with, except in the cases of capital and very refractory offenders. Nay, even a system of rewards, to the orderly and industrious, has been adopted by the meritorious exertions of one of the magistrates, Rowland Hunt, of Boreatton, Esq. by which debtors are enabled to gain a livelihood while in confinement, and some implements or materials supplied them on their return to their families and society. Nor are the criminal prisoners exempt from these favours; clothes and implements of labour are given to those, who on quitting the prison, are found worthy to receive a written certificate of their industry, penitence, and good behaviour; and as the regulations of this place, go more towards the prevention, than the punishment of crimes, those who are dismissed from it, are furnished with a small sum for immediate maintenance; thereby choaking up the first channels of temptation, and allowing to the liberated a sufficient time to confirm the good resolutions, which they may have formed during their solitary confinement. Bibles, Prayer books, and other religious works, are put into their hands, and every possible exertion is made to reclaim the wanderer, and relieve the wretched. This system is characteristic of the Salopians:—It displays the dignity of virtue attempered to the generous and social affections of humanity. The house of correction, or County Bridewell, is within the new prison, and partakes of the benefit of its government and regulations; the prisoners of the town gaol are also now incorporated with those of the county goal.

A Court of Conscience, for the recovery of small debts, was granted to this town and liberty, by Queen Elizabeth; and in 1783, an act of Parliament was passed, establishing a Court of Requests, for the recovery of debts not amounting to forty shillings and exceeding two shillings, in a summary way. This latter is held every Wednesday.

The earliest corporation seal of Shrewsbury, with an armorial shield, is that inscribed SIGILLVM BALLIVORVM SALOPIE: *the seal of the bailiffs of Shrewsbury*: with three lions passant guardant. The present arms of the town, three leopards' faces, are found for the first time on the superb seal, which is still used,* and which was engraven in the year 1425, as appears from the incscription, *Sigillū commune libertatis ville Salopesburie factū anno gr̃i MCCCLXXV*. This seal is a very curious piece of workmanship, and shews good taste as well as good sense. It represents a view of the town, with its churches, houses, bridges, and circum-ambient river. Over a magnificent gate are the lions of England: on one side, the present town arms; on the other, the cross of St. George, to denote the Welsh, or St. George's, bridge. A church, with its steeple of lead, is plainly distinguishable; from which circumstance, Mr. Owen conjectures, that the old collegiate church of St. Chad was at that time crowned with a leaden spire; adding, with great propriety, that an attentive observer may discern some, not uninteresting, traces of the domestic architecture of our ancestors.†

In Dr. Taylor's MS. as cited by Phillips and Mr. Owen, we have the following account of the first MARKET HOUSE in this town, of which any record remains: "This yeare, 1567, Maister John Dawes of Shrosbery, and Alderman of the sayde towne, began and buylded two fayre houseses in the corne market there, for the saffe placinge of corne from wether, so that
the

* Owen.

† A good engraving of this curious seal is given as a frontispiece to Mr. Owen's Account of Shrewsbury.

the owners thereof may stand saffe and drye, the which buyldings was at his owne coste and charge; which place servyth for the inhabytantes, as also strangers to walke in, and the lofte above for soondry profitable purposes."

To these two timber buildings, Mr. Humphrey Onslowe, in the year 1571, added three others, for the like purpose. In 1595, these buildings were removed, and the present edifice erected on their site. The following inscription appears over the northern arch: "The xvth day of June was this building begun, William Jones and Thomas Charlton, Gent. then Bailiffs, and was erected and covered in their time, 1595." So that it appears, this stately and substantial edifice was built in the short space of one year. It is not, however, certain, that its numerous ornaments were all finished in that time.—The inscription stating only that it was "erected and covered" during that short period. It is conjectured that Churchyard, the poet, of whom we shall hereafter give a memoir, and who lived at this time, referred to the new market-house, in the following lines:

I held on way to annient Shrewsberie towne,
And so from horse at lodging lighting downe
I walkt the streates, and markt what came to vewe,
Found old things dead, as world were made a newe.
For buildings gay, and gallant finely wrought,
Had old device, through time supplanted cleane :—
Some houses bare, that seem'd to be worthe nought,
Were fat within, that outward looked leane :
Wit had won wealth, to stuffe each emptie place,
The cunninge head, and labouring hand had grace
To gayne and keepe, and lay up still in store,
As man might say the heart could wish no more.

WORTHINES OF WALES.

This building is exceedingly spacious and magnificent, and, at the time Churchyard wrote, would doubtless have a splendid, and, according to the architectural taste of that age, a very pleasing

pleasing aspect. It is built entirely of free stone; with its principal front facing the west. In the centre, over a spacious portal, are the arms of Queen Elizabeth, in alto relievo, under a rich canopy. Attached to the imposts of the great arch, are pillars, each supporting the figure of a lion, bearing a shield on its breast. Above, are two stories, with large square mullioned windows. On each side this portal is an open arcade, consisting of three large round arches, reposing on pillars, which form the main building; over which is a range of square windows, with mullions, and a rich and whimsical parapet, consisting of a series of curled embrasures, somewhat like the Ionic volute. Between them, at alternate distances, are a kind of grôtesque pinnacles, in the same style. At the north and south ends are large open arches, the whole edifice being finished above by sharp-pointed gables. In a tabernacled nich, above the northern arch, and between the lower window, stands a statue of Richard, Duke of York.* On his right hand is the following inscription: "This statue was removed by order of the mayor, from the tower on the Welsh bridge, in the year 1791." On his left are the town arms, in relief. The lower area, 105 feet by 24, is used as a corn market; over which is a large room, or rather rooms, now used as warehouses. In the year 1804, this substantial building underwent a thorough repair, at an expense to the corporation of more than £500.†

Adjoining the market-house is one of the conduits which furnish the inhabitants with excellent spring water.

With a market, perhaps better supplied than any other in the kingdom, Shrewsbury has but a very "unsightly," and ill-constructed market-cross; a strong brick and stone structure, serving no earthly purpose, besides that of blockading the passage in the street, on days of public business, and holding

* Vide ante, p. 81.

† Owen, p. 440.

ing on its top a reservoir on groined-arches, capable of containing 700 barrels of water, which is supplied every day by a wheel, and in eight hours each time. This scheme, of supplying the town with water from the Severn, originated, in 1705, with a Mr. Aldersly, of London; who erected his works under the stone, or English bridge; for which privilege he was to pay five shillings per annum, and receive all the profits.

Near the market-cross are the butchers' shambles, extending along the south side of the street, called Pride-hill. These form a narrow lane, named Double Butcher-row, at right angles with it. This place is not less remarkable for its filth and deformity, except on great market days, than for the plenty and excellence of the provisions there exposed to sale. The market-days are Wednesdays and Saturdays.

The fish-market, in a narrow lane, called Fish-street, is also mean and inconvenient.

The several grants of FAIRS are as follows: Lammas fair, August the 12th, granted by Roger de Montgomery, the first Earl of Shrewsbury, to the abbot of St. Peter and St. Paul. Henry the First granted a fair to the abbot and convent of St. Peter and St. Paul, to be held yearly, on the 3d of July.—1204, on Wednesday before Whitsunday, by King John.—1326, on October the 2d, called St. Matthew's fair, by Edward the Third.—1638, Easter fair, held on Wednesday after Easter, by Charles the First.—1638, St. Andrews', on December the 12th, by Charles the First.—1732, on Saturday after March the 15th, by the corporation, at the request of Mr. Methusalem Jones, of Underhill.—1762, on the last Saturday in February, by the corporation.

We now proceed to some account of the PUBLIC HALLS, and incorporated companies; but we are constrained to be brief; and shall aid our recollection and research by the ample and correct descriptions of Mr. Owen; whose authority, we believe, in every instance may be relied on.

The gild or fraternity of the Holy Trinity of the *mistery of drapers,*

drapers, was founded by Edward the Fourth, in 1460; and by James the First incorporated into the present DRAPERS' COMPANY. Their hall is a large room in an old timber house in St. Mary's churchyard; and in it hangs a portrait of the royal founder, placed there in 1659, having round and underneath it the following inscription:—round the picture, “Edwardus III. Anglæ et Franciæ rex. Dominº. Hiber.”—Underneath, “The right noble Prince Edward the Fourth, King of England and France, Lord of Ireland. He reigned twenty-two years, and five weeks. Died at the age of fifty-two years, buried at Windsor, 1483.

“ This yeare Fourth Edward, York's faire fan'd renown,
 Circled his temples with great Albion's crowne :
 When over reading the memoriale
 Of Salop's Drapers ancient Hospitale,
 Founded in honour of the sacred Deity,
 He own'd and stil'd them then, the blest society ;
 And with his parliament's sage approbation,
 Deigned them his charter for a corporation,
 Which to confirme, himself was pleased to be
 The royal founder of their companie,
 Granting immunities of large extent,
 Which stand his bounties' gratefull monument.

“ Edward 4º. regi Anglorum
 Gloriosissimo Monumentum
 Hoc posuit Pannariorum
 Salopiensium grata Societas.”

THE MERCERS COMPANY have, at present, no Hall, but transact their business at one of the Inns. Their composition was confirmed May 11th, 1480, by Edward, Prince of Wales, who was then in Shrewsbury, at the suit of Nicholas Pontesbury, and Roger Adis, wardens; and the Ironmongers and Goldsmiths united with him. The conditions of their charter consisted in a mixture of superstition and piety, which the good sense of the laxity of later times have rendered useless. It is
 a pity,

a pity, however, in days of political and commercial depression, that one of these conditions should not be enforced—provided always that the prayers were not to be very long. This condition, among other matters, sets forth, that the said company should “give 13 poor men, each of them, one penny per weeke, to praye for the prosperytye” of “the King’s Council, and for the fraternitye of the saide Guilde.”

At the upper end of High Street, is an ancient red stone building, which was formerly the Hall of the CLOTH-WORKERS, or SHEARMEN’S COMPANY. It is not known when it was erected; but, not many years ago, it bore evident marks of the architecture of the 14th century. A large ancient timber house, called the Old Post-office, adjoins the south side, and with the building in question, forms a court, entered from the street by a gateway.

This Hall has undergone, not only several alterations in its structure, but has been applied, at various times, to purposes of a somewhat dissimilar nature:—it has been the seat of useful commerce—it has been devoted to the rational amusements of the stage—it has been a methodist chapel;—and is now a tea-warehouse. The extracts which Mr. Owen has made from some ancient books of accounts, belonging to this and other companies, are sufficiently curious, but they are too long for insertion in this work.

The THEATRE, if we may credit the affirmation of Phillips, is part of the ancient palace of the Princes of Powisland; who, in their frequent transactions with the sovereigns of England, often resided at Shrewsbury. John de Charlton, who married a heiress of the line of Powis, obtained a licence, in 1308, to embattle this mansion, and hence it acquired the name of Charlton Hall. In 1445, Henry Gray, Earl of Tankerville, and Lord of Powis, granted the premises to Thomas Bromley; from whom, twenty-five years after, they were demised to Nycholas Warynge, of Salop, merchant of the staple of Calais. After various changes

changes and transfers, it at length became the property of the Waring family.

The ancient boundary-walls of this mansion, inclosed all the space contained between Cross Hill, St. John's Hill, Murivance, or Swan Hill, and Shoplache. The house, doubtless, formed one, if not two quadrangles, which may still be traced. The most considerable remnant, is a building of red stone, in length one hundred feet, and in breadth thirty-one, which is now the theatre. The side next the street has been plastered and washed with dark stone-colour, to give it the appearance of a modern front. The other side exhibits the original walls, with some blocked-up pointed arches, and other features of high antiquity. It is probable, that, in the old edifice, this part was the great chamber, appropriated, according to the usage of the times, for receiving company, and occasionally for exhibiting shows and dramatic interludes. The interior being now fitted up as a modern theatre, retains few of its original appurtenances, except the remains of a narrow, spiral stone staircase. It consists of a pretty roomy pit, a ground tier of boxes, with upper side-boxes, and a tolerably spacious gallery. The stage is well adapted to the size of the place, and the decorations are in the usual style of provincial playhouses. The same remark may apply to the performers, who are, generally, of that middling class, which consists of persons in their first career to excellence, and of others that have got half way, and remain stationary. The taste of the Salopians, being rather of that retired kind, which delights most in domestic society, does not contribute much to encourage dramatic exhibitions, and the house is scarcely ever crowded, except during the race-week, and in the summer visits of the London performers. The audiences, however, if not numerous, are select; and, it may be mentioned to their honour, that they never tolerate any thing which borders on buffoonery or indecorum. Even among the *higher* orders, (we here speak locally) a sense of propriety prevails, and they seldom indulge in that
obstre-

obstreperous eloquence by which, as Addison humourously observes, ‘the ladies of the British fishery’ display their talents for debate. Their good-humour, indeed, almost exceeds belief; for, on a particular occasion, when the manager was compelled, by an overflow, to place seats on the stage, they tolerated the intrusion without demanding an apology. Such a circumstance, though in itself trivial, exhibits a trait of character, too interesting to be overlooked. One of their most favourite plays, for obvious reasons, is the first part of Henry the Fourth, and when Jack Falstaff tells of having fought Hotspur ‘a full hour by Shrewsbury clock,’ he never fails to draw down a thunder of applause. It is pleasing to remark, how an allusion of this nature operates on the feelings, by the universal law of association; and how frequently the practice has been resorted to by the great poets of every nation. Homer and Virgil imparted an additional charm to their compositions, by describing scenes to which their countrymen were familiar. The acclivities of Parnassus and the banks of Helicon, were consecrated as classic ground, by the immortal strains of the bard of Chios. His worthy imitator,* delighted the imagination and roused the enthusiasm of the Romans, by conducting the wanderings of Æneas through the fair regions of their native Ausonia, and even to the inmost sanctuary of the “Eternal City”—

Hinc ad Tarpeiam sedem et Capitolia ducit
Aurea nunc, olim silvestribus horrida dumis.

With a kindred instinct of genius, our own Shakespeare won the attention and applause of his contemporaries, by embodying in his dramas the most striking passages of our eventful history, and by portraying scenes which every Englishman still delights to contemplate; the lustre of his fame will never fade while the sacred groves of Windsor shall bloom, and the royal fields of Shrewsbury and Bosworth shall be remembered.

The

* M. de Voltaire happily observes, that if Homer made Virgil, Virgil is the finest of Homer's works.

The COUNCIL HOUSE, was so named, from its having been appropriated to the reception of the court of the *Marches* of Wales, in their visits to Shrewsbury, where they were accustomed to hold one term in the year for the convenience of suitors: as they did another at Bewdley, and sometimes at Hereford. From its vicinity to the castle, it is probable, that the ground it now occupies, was the *ballium* or *base court*. The first certain account, relating to this edifice, denotes that its site, at least, was the inheritance of the family of Plowden. John Plowden, Esq., grand-father to the famous lawyer, conveyed it to Sir Roger Kynaston, of Hordley, Knt., and Elizabeth, his wife, sister of Richard, Lord Grey, de Powis, and this lady, in 1501, being then a widow, sold it to Peter Newton, Esq., whose initials, P. N., were some time ago found in stained glass, on some diamond panes in a bay window of the hall. This circumstance, corresponding with the style of its architecture, gives reason to suppose, that he was the founder of the house. Mr. Newton was one of the council of the *Marches* of Wales, and probably he, or his son Arthur, conveyed it to the family of Knight. On the sixth of May, 1553, Thomas Knight, Gent., granted it to Sir Andrew Corbet, vice-president of the council of the Welsh marches, and Richard Corbet, Esq., of Poynton, in the county of Salop, from whom it was in all likelihood transferred to the corporation for the use of the council; at least it appears to have been in the possession of that body on the 26th of March, 1563, from the following entry, found in their book of orders:

“Agreed that the right honourable the Lord Stafford shall have the howse wheryn the counsell yn the marches of Wales be accustomed to lye when they be at Salop, together with the gardens and orchards thereunto belonging, to have to hym duryng the plesure of the Baylyffes and Burgesses, paying convenient rent. The place beyng reserved to the towne’s use, at such times as the Queen’s Majesty’s counsell shall come to lye at thys town, and also at such tymes as the Justices of the Assyses shall

From an entry in the same book, three years subsequent, it appears, that this demise was objected to, on the part of the crown, and that Richard Onslow, Esq. the queen's solicitor-general, obtained possession of it. In 1571, it was agreed, that the town should take a lease of the Council-house from Mrs. Onslow, for forty-nine years. In 1583, the corporation granted to Mr. Barker their interest in the Council-house and chapel, with a covenant that they should have the use of it during the residence of her majesty's council, on paying rent for the time occupied. From him it passed to the family of Owen,* of Cundover, and was held by them until it was purchased by Richard Lyster, Esq.

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L

apartment

† The Lord Gerard was president of the council at the time the council-house was in Mr. Owen's possession, and held his court here in 1618.

apartment is fifty feet by twenty-six, and is richly adorned with elaborate carving, rudely designed, but finely executed. The chimney bears two grotesque figures of Adam and Eve, and the coved ceiling has a profusion of decorations in plaster. It was here that Charles the First kept his court during his residence in Shrewsbury, in that gloomy period of discord when his royalty appeared 'shorn of its beams.' How well does that deserted, solitary, and ruinous apartment accord with the reflections which the unhappy fate of that monarch is calculated to inspire!

The Council-house has frequently been the court of the Lords Presidents of Wales during their visits to Shrewsbury. The following accounts of two of these visits are worth recording. They are given by Phillips, from Dr. Taylor's MSS.

"1581, The 24th of April being St. George's daye; the right honourable Sir Henry Sidney, Lord President of the Marches of Wales, beinge of the Privy counsell, and one of the Knights of the most noble order of the garter, kept St. George's feast in Shrewsbury, most honourably, commynge the sayde daye, from the Counsell-house there, in hys knightly robes, most valiant, wyth his gentilmen before hym, and his Knights following hym, in brave order; and after them the bayliffes and aldermen, in their scarlet gownes, wyth the companyes of all occupations in the sayde towne, in their best liverys, and before every warden of every company, their two stuardes, with whit rodde in their handes, evrie company followinge, in good and seemly order, toward St. Chadd's church, where he was stallid upon the right hande, in the quire, neere unto the Queens Majesties place, prepared in the same quire, also with all the nobilities arms that were Knights of the garter, and passinge, and repassinge by the Queens Majesties place, he dyd as much honour as though the Queens Majestie had been present, where he had there the divine servys sung by note*, to the gloryfying of God, and the greates honor of the sayd

* The choral service of this collegiate church had not, perhaps, yet been

sayd Sir Henry, who began the feast upon the eve, and kept open household for the tyme. It hys to be notyd, that there was sutch a goodly number of townesmen followyng hym to the church, that when he entired into the church, the last end of the trayne was at my Lord's place, (the Councill-house) which is the lengthe of 700 paces at the least.

"And on the first daye of Maye, the masters of the free scoole, whose names were Thomas Larrance, John Baker, Rychard Atkys, and Roger Kent, made a brave and costly bancket after supper, of the same daye, before the scoole, to the number of forty dyshes, and the masters before them, every scoole presenting ten dyshes, with a sewer before every scoole, pronowncyng these words*.

LARRANCE I.

"These are all of Larrance lore,
Accompt hys hart above hys store.

BAKER II.

These ten are all of Baker's bande,
Good wyll, not welthe, now to be scande.

ATKYS III.

These ten are all in Atkys chardge,
Hys gyfts are small, hys good wyll lardge.

KENT IV.

These ten coom last and are the least,
Yett Kent's good wyll ys wyth the beast."

"These verses followinge were written and hereafter followe, about the bancketinge dyshes.

"*En mittunt librum, libram non mittere possunt.
Virgum, non vaccam mittere quisq. potest.*"

L 2

" And

been quite discontinued. In the register of Ludlow, is mention of *masters* of the *choristers* of that church long after the Reformation.

OWEN.

* His son afterwards the celebrated Sir Philip Sydney, then at the Schools, was probably the principal performer in this pageant. OWEN.

“ And the daye following, beinge the seconde daye of Maye, all the scollars of the sayde free scoole, being taught by the aforesaid four masters, beinge in number 360, with their masters before every of them, marchyng bravely from the sayde scoole, in battell order, with ther generalls, captens, drumms, trumpetts, and ensigns before them, through the town, towards a large fillde, called the Gay, in the Abbey suburbs of Salop, and there devydinge theire banndes into four partes, met the sayde Lord President, being upon a lusty courser, who turned hym about, and came to them, the Generall openinge to hys Lordshyp the purpose and assembly, of hym, and the rest, then he wyth the other Captens made theire orations, howe valiantly they would feight and defend the countrey, at whych the sayde Lord had greate pleasure, and mutche rejoisyd, gyvinge greate prayse to the sayde Masters for the eloquence thereof. And on the 13th daye of Maye the sayd Sir Henry Sidney departed from Shrewsberie by water, and tooke hys Barge under the Castell Hyll, by hys Place, and as he passid by there were 14 chamber pieces bravely shot off, with a certain shott of Harquebushers, and so passing alonge, not the lengthe of a quarter of a myle off by water, theire were placid in an Ilet, hard by the water syde, serten appointed schollars of the free scoole, being apparelyed all in greene, and greene wyllows upon theire heads, marching by, and callyng to hym, macking theire lamentable orations, sorowinge hys departure, the which was done so pityfully, and of sutch excellency, that trully it made many, bothe in the bardge upon the water, as also the people uppon lande, to weepe, and my Lord hymself to change countenance.”

The orations made upon this occasion being too many to insert in this place, one part shall be quoted as a specimen.

“ *One boy alone.*

Oh stay the barge, rowe not soe fast,
Rowe not soe fast, oh stay awhile;
Oh stay and hear the playntts at last,
Of nymphs, that harbour in thys isle.

Thear

Thear woe is greate, greate moan they make,
 With doleful tunes they doe lament,
 They howle, they crie, their leave to tacke,
 Their garments greene for woe they rent.

O Severn, turn thy stream quite backe,
 Alas why doyst thou us anoye?
 Wilt thou cause us this Lord to lacke,
 Whose presince is our onelie joy?

But hark, methinks I heare a sounde,
 A wofull sounde I playnly heare,
 Some sorrow greate thear hart dothe wound,
 Pass on my Lord, to them draw neare.

Four boys appear in green, singing.

O woefull wretched tyme, oh doleful day and houre,
 Lament we may the loss we have, and floods of tears out poure,
 Come nymphs of woods and hilles, come help us moan we pray,
 The water nymphs our sisters dear, do take our Lord away,
 Bewayle we may our wrongs, revenge we cannot take,
 Oh that the gods would bring him back, our sorrows for to slake.

One alone with musick.

O pinching payne that gripes my heart, O thrise unhappy wight,
 O sillie soul what hap have I, to see this woful sight;
 Shall I now leave my lovinge Lord, shall he now from me goe?
 Why wyll he Salop nowe forsake, alas, why will he so?
 Alas my sorrows doe increase, my heart doth rent in twayne,
 For that my Lord doth hence depart, and will not hear remayne.

All.

And will your honour now depart?
 And must it needs be soe?
 Would God we could lyke fishes swyme,
 That we might with thee goe.

Or else would God this little isle,
 Were stretched out so lardge,
 That we on foot myght follow thee,
 And wayt upon thy bardge.

But seeing that we cannot swyme,
 And island's at an end;
 Safe passage with a short return,
 The myghty God thee sende.

“ And soe the barge departed, the Bayliffes, and serten of the Aldermen accompanyinge, hym by water, untill they came to Atcham brydge, and theire they dynyd all together in the barge upon the water; and after dyner, tacking theire leave, with mourninge countenances, departed*.

“ This yeare 1582, and the 11th daye of Marche, beinge Moonday, at nyght, the right honourable Lady Mary Sidney came to thys towne of Salop, in her wagon, and tooke up hyr lodgyng at my Lord's Place theire; and on the 12th day ensuing, the most valyant Knight Sir Harry Sidney, hyr husband, beinge Lord President of the Marches, came also from Ludlowe, to thys towne of Salop, in honourable manner, and as he passyd in hys wagon, by the Condit, at the Wyle Coppe, were made two excellent orations, by two of the free scoole scollars, he staying in hys wagon, to heare the same, the which in the end he praysed very well; and soe passed through towards hys Lady, with his troompeter blowyng verely joyfully to behold and see †.”

THE WHITE HALL, “in the Abbey Forgate, was builded by one Master Prince, a lawyer, and was called *Master Prince's Place*.” ‡ The building was commenced in March 1578, and completed in four years. It is a venerable red stone mansion, white-washed, from which circumstance, as is supposed, it received its present name. It is lofty, square, and compact; † the roof finished with pointed gables, the chimnies highly ornamented, and the whole crowned with an octagonal turret in the centre. The
 ancient

* Phillips 43—46.

† Ib. 46, 47.

‡ MS. Chronicle.

§ Churchyard says “ Maister Prince his house stands so trim and finely, that it graceth all the soyle it is in.” *Worthines of Wales*.

ancient hall has been converted into a spacious parlour; and nearly the whole inside of the building modernized. The gate-house, formerly appropriated to the use of the chaplain, is still standing, as are also parts of the original garden walls; some old mulberry-trees, and a lofty walnut, were, very lately, growing against their sides, the only *living* remains of its former state.

THE BELL STONE HOUSE* stands in Barker-street. It is a good specimen of the smaller mansion of Queen Elizabeth's reign; built of red stone, and incloses three sides of a small court, separated from the street by a low wall and gate. The windows are wide and square headed, with heavy mullions. A porch, of that debased Grecian manner, so fashionable in the seventeenth century, leads to the hall. On the left of this apartment is a parlour, with a grotesque chimney-piece, in which are the family arms. On the right, up two or three steps, is the great chamber, now a very handsome drawing-room. This apartment, which appears to be more ancient than the rest of the mansion, is unusually lofty, with a sharp Gothic arched roof. This building, from the arms over the door—a lion rampant, and a canton; as also from the letters E. O. in one of the windows, appears to have been erected by Edward Owen, alderman and draper, of Shrewsbury, and bailiff of the corporation in 1582; from whom descended the Owens of Woodhouse.†

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JONES'S

* So called from a remarkable, and hitherto inexplicable, circumstance of a large stone having been placed at the northern angle of the outer wall. It is six feet by five; and is supposed to belong to Kirwan's Siliceous Genns, species 32d. It was anciently called *Bente Stone*, as it is very obscurely conjectured, from its having had at some period, (when stocks and stones were more sacredly regarded than they are in these degenerate days) a sort of affinity to the venerable St. Benedict of popish celebrity. We fear, however, this is one of the "doubtful etymologies," complained of by Mr. Gough, and referred to in our motto. It certainly requires even the critical acumen of Swift himself to discover any radical connection between Bell Stone and St. Benedict.

† Mr. Owen's Account, p. 524.

JONES'S MANSION, the only ancient edifice that remains at present to be noticed, stands at the corner of Ox-Lane, leading to St. Alkmund's. It is in various styles of architecture, exhibiting the square mullioned window of James the First's days, as well as the wide gable and clumsy sash of Charles the Second's time. It was built by Thomas Jones, alderman of Salop, who was appointed, by Charles the First, the first mayor of the corporation. In 1624, he served the office of high sheriff of the county. He died in 1642.

The ancient timber and half timber buildings of Shrewsbury are still pretty numerous, but they do not appear to merit any particular notice in this work. The only old brick building worthy of remark is one in Hill's Lane: it was built in the year 1618, and is said to have been erected by William Rowley,* a noted brewer of Shrewsbury. The house, which is the best and most highly ornamented style of its day, is still in tolerable preservation, with a profusion of stucco decorations; but has been some time deserted as an habitation, being converted into a woollen manufactory.

We shall conclude this architectural sketch by some notice of the DEPOT, which was erected by government in the year
1806,

* Mr. Rowley was son to Roger Rowley, Gent. of Rowley, in the parish of Worfield, in this county, and was admitted a burgess of Shrewsbury in 1594. He is spoken of by Baxter, the nonconformist, as his "very dear friend," from which, it is fairly presumed, he was also the "friend" of Puritanism. In those days (and, unfortunately, too much in the present) the ties of amity were not very strong between persons holding different religious and political sentiments. It is also supposed, that Mr. Rowley planted the islands which bear his name, in the Caribbees, as he is said to have embarked in the settlement of Barbadoes, at that time a favourite commercial speculation. The house now under consideration came into the possession of the Hill Family by marriage, between Priscilla, the eldest daughter and co-heiress of Roger Rowley, Esq. son of the above-named, and John Hill, Esq. who is said to have been one of Farquhar's justices, in his comedy of the Recruiting Officer. He is locally renowned, as the first person who kept a coach in Shrewsbury. He died in 1731.

1806, on a piece of ground near St. Giles's church in this town. It was designed by Mr. Wyatt, and reflects credit on his architectural taste and skill. The principal building is one hundred and thirty-five feet by thirty-nine, divided into an upper and lower story, and capable of containing 25,000 stand of arms. Within the enclosure are two magazines for ammunition, and a small neat house at each angle, for the store-keeper, armourer, and a subaltern's guard. This edifice was built with the intention of containing the arms of the volunteer corps within this and the adjoining counties, whenever the restoration of peace, so earnestly sighed for by the people of this country, shall enable the patriotic individuals, who compose those bodies, to lay them down.

In addition to the eminent characters already mentioned, it is proper to notice a few others, whose fame, learning, or virtues have contributed to enrich the annals of the Salopian capital.

MR. THOMAS CHURCHYARD, a poet of some note in his time, was a native of this town, but neither the incidents of his life, nor the merit of his writings, have been thought of sufficient importance to employ the pen of the biographer, or the skill of the critic. He says he was a descendant "of a right good race," that flourished in the reigns of Henry the Eighth, Edward the Sixth, Mary and Elizabeth. His writings certainly discover him to have been a man of learning and taste. His principal work is entitled *The Worthines of Wales*, including Shropshire. It is written in very humble verse, and is noted only for its faithfulness of description. It was printed in 1587,* and was reprinted in 1776, in 12mo. In 1588, he published a work, bearing the following title, "A Spark of Friendship and warm Good-Will, that shews the Effect of true Affection, and unfolds the Fineness of this World." This tract was printed in London, and is dedicated to Sir Walter Raleigh, Knight, whom

* Phillips says he died about the 11th of Queen Elizabeth's reign, 1570. This is evidently a mistake.

whom the author calls his "Honourable Friend." This dedication is dated "London, at my Lodging, the 8th of March,"* Mention is made in it of his "Book of Choice," and that, as "a matter to be mused at," he had "sixteen several books printed presently to be bought,"—"dedicated in sundry seasons, to several men of good and great credit," yet he complains that "not one among them all, from the first day of his labour and studies, to that present year and hour, had any way preferred his suits, amended his state, or given him any countenance." This complaint, not uncommon even with authors of more modern times, it should seem, was not made without some provocation; for Mr. Churchyard, a little further on, confesses that he "shews a kind of adulation to fawn for favour on those that are happy," justifying his conduct, as "a point of wisdom, which his betters had taught him," seeing he "had read it in a great book of Latin, printed four hundred years before,† that one of Sir Walter's ancestors," and of the same name, "had more fawners and followers than even Sir Walter himself;" and thus, like many other prudent men, our author "took example from the fish that follow the stream, the fowls that come to

* *Harleian Miscellany*, in which the whole title runs thus; "A Spark of Friendship and warm Good Will, that shews the Effect of true Affection, and unfolds the Fineness of this World.—Whereunto is joined the commodity of sundry Sciences, and the benefit that Paper bringeth, with many rare matters rehearsed in the same. With a Description and Commendation of a PAPER MILL, now of late set up (near the town of Dartford) by an High German, called Mr. Spilman, jeweller to the Queen's most excellent Majesty, written by *Thomas Churchyard, Gent.*

*Nulla esse jucunditas, sublatâ amicitia. Cic. pro Flacc.**

At the end of the tract there is a "N. B." stating that "the verses abovementioned, relating to the description and commendation of a Paper-Mill, then newly erected at Dartford, were not added as proposed."—Phillips mentions this poetical description of a paper-mill, which he thinks was the first of the kind erected in England.

† About two centuries and a half prior to the invention of printing!

to the covert from the winds, and the brute beasts that avoid a sturdy storm, under the safe-guard of a strong and flourishing tree." It is to be feared, however, that all poor Churchyard's "crafty forecasting" eventually rendered him no essential service; for his epitaph, written by himself, is as follows:

Come Allecto, and lend me thy torch,
To find a Churchyard in a church porch;
Poverty and poetry his tomb do enclose,
Wherefore, good neighbours, be merry in prose.*

According to Antony Wood, Mr. Churchyard died in 1604, and was buried in St. Margaret's Church, Westminster.†

JOHN BENBOW, vice-admiral of the Blue, and one of the most eminent English seamen mentioned in our history, was born about the year 1650, on Cotton-Hill, in this town. He was the nephew of Colonel Benbow, of whom the reader will find some account in a former part of this volume.‡ It has been ridiculously asserted, that this gallant and excellent person was originally a waterman's boy; but this calumny, if such indeed it should be considered, has been ably and fully refuted by the late Paul Calton, Esq.; who married one of his daughters and coheireses: § though it is certain that the family of
Benbow

* Camden's Remains.

† Athenæ Oxonienses.

‡ Page 73.

§ In a note on page 154 of the second volume of the Biographia Britannica, we have an affecting account of Colonel John Benbow, the father of our admiral. After the unfortunate battle between the King's and the Parliament forces, on September 3, 1651, several gentlemen of the first families in England were put to death by order of the court-martial held at Chester. We have already stated that of this unfortunate number was Colonel Thomas Benbow. His brother, Colonel John, escaped that sentence; but was imprisoned. He, however, shortly contrived to make his escape, and lived in a private manner till after the Restoration, when he was far advanced in years; and his affairs having been ruined in consequence of his loyalty, he was glad to accept a small office in the Tower, where

Benbow were brought very low by their steady attachment to the Royal Cause. The father dying when his son John was young, left him no other provision than his profession, that of the sea; but this was sufficient to one of a mind so ardent, and so naturally formed for services of this kind. Before he was thirty, he became master, and in a great measure, owner, of a ship, called the Benbow Frigate, employed in the Mediterranean trade.

An accident, which occurred during his last voyage, gave a sudden turn to his fortunes, and brought him to serve in the British navy, which he afterwards did with distinguished honour. In 1686, the Benbow frigate was attacked, on her passage to Cadiz, by a Sallee rover, against whom the Captain defended himself, though very unequal in number, with the utmost bravery, till at last the Moors boarded him; but were immediately beat out of the ship again with the loss of thirteen men, whose heads Captain Benbow ordered to be cut off, and thrown into a tub of pork pickle. They were afterwards carried in a sack, on the back of a negro servant, to be examined by the magistrates in Cadiz, as the captain had refused to have his luggage examined by the custom-house officers, asserting that the bag contained only salted provisions for his own use. Upon the magistrates insisting on seeing the contents, that they might be satisfied they were not *run goods*, the captain ordered his servant, Cæsar, to throw them down on the table, adding,
“ I told

where he was accidentally found by the King. His Majesty cast his eye on the old Colonel, and immediately exclaimed, “ My old friend, Colonel Benbow, what do you here?” “ I have,” returned the Colonel, “ a place of fourscore pounds a year, in which I serve your Majesty as cheerfully as if it brought me in four thousand.” “ Alas!” said the King, “ is this all that could be found for an old friend at Worcester? Colonel Legge, bring this gentleman to me to-morrow, and I will provide for him and his family as it becomes me.” This gracious promise was never fulfilled. The aged Colonel could not sustain the shock occasioned by such an unexpected reverse of fortune:—he sat down on a bench, and breathed his last, before the King was well out of the Tower.

"I told you they were salt provisions, and, gentlemen, if you like them, they are at your service!" This brutal adventure certainly did not tend to increase the glory of the captain's victory over the barbarians; but the affair ultimately recommended him to the notice and admiration of Charles II., then King of Spain, who was so charmed with the matter, as to induce him not only to make Benbow a handsome present, but also to write a letter in his praise to King James, who, upon his return, gave him the command of a ship in the royal navy.

From this time he continued to rise to the first offices in the navy by pure merit, without any court interest or private intrigue; a thing of such rare occurrence as to deserve particular remark. He signalized himself by several descents upon the French coast, and pursued for some time, though without effect, the famous Du Bart. But the most important event of his life was his unfortunate engagement with M. de Casse. In 1701, in order, as was said, to disappoint the French in their views upon the Spanish succession, it was thought necessary, among other arrangements, to send a strong squadron to the West Indies. This squadron it was necessary to put under the command of a tried and skilful officer, and Benbow was immediately thought on by the ministry; but the King refused to listen to this, alledging that it would be hard to send that faithful officer to a quarter from which he had but, in a manner, just returned, and where he had met with nothing but difficulties. One or two others were accordingly named, but they all contrived to get themselves excused: upon which the King said merrily to some of his ministers, alluding to the dress and appearance of these gentlemen, "Well then, I find we must spare our *beaus*, and send honest *Benbow*." His Majesty accordingly sent for him, and asked him whether he was willing go to the West Indies, assuring him at the same time, that if he was not, he would give no offence by desiring to be excused. Mr. Benbow, with characteristic bluntness, answered, that

that he did not understand such compliments; that he thought he had no right to choose his station; and that if his Majesty thought fit to send him to the East or West Indies, or any where else, he would cheerfully execute his orders as became him. Thus the matter was settled, and the command of the West India squadron conferred on our vice-admiral. He departed in October the same year. His squadron consisted of two third-rates, and eight fourths, which was the only force that could then be spared.

Of this expedition the King formed great hopes; knowing that Benbow would not fail to execute, as far as he should be able, the instructions given him, which were either to engage the Spanish governors to disown King Philip, or to take the Galleons. This he would most assuredly have effected, had he not been basely deserted by his irritated or cowardly officers, who deserted him in the last moments of approaching victory.

It was on the nineteenth of August, 1702, that he fell in with a French armament under M. de Casse, an officer of considerable skill and bravery. The enemy's force consisted of ten sail, four of them from sixty to seventy guns, one a great Dutch-built ship of about thirty or forty, another full of soldiers, three small vessels, and a sloop. About four o'clock in the afternoon the engagement commenced. The vice-admiral had disposed his line of battle in the following manner: The *Defiance*, *Pennennis*, *Windsor*, *Breda*, *Greenwich*, *Ruby*, and *Falmouth*. But the *Defiance* and *Windsor* did not stand above two or three broadsides before they loosed out of gun-shot, so that the two sternmost ships of the enemy lay on the admiral, and galled him very much: nor did the ships in the rear come up to his assistance with the diligence they ought to have done.* The fight lasted till dark; and though the firing then ceased, the vice-admiral kept them company all night. The next morning, at break of day, he was near the French ships, but none of his squadron, except the *Ruby*, was with him; the rest being three, four, or five miles a-stern. Notwithstanding this, the French did

* Burchet's Naval History, p. 591.

did not fire a gun at the vice-admiral, though he was within their reach. At two in the afternoon the French drew into a line, though at the same time they made what sail they could without fighting. However, the vice-admiral and the Ruby kept them company all night, plying their chace guns. Thus the gallant Benbow continued pursuing, and sometimes skirmishing with the enemy, for upwards of four days; but was never duly seconded by the ships of his squadron.*

On the twenty-third, about noon, the admiral took from them a small English ship, called the Anne Galley, which they had taken, off Lisbon; and the Ruby being disabled, he ordered her to Port Royal. About eight at night the whole squadron was up with the vice-admiral, and the enemy not two miles off. There was now a prospect of doing something, and the vice-admiral made the best of his way after them; but his whole squadron, except the Falmouth, fell a-stern again. At two in the morning, the twenty-fourth, the vice-admiral came up with the enemy's sternmost ship, and fired his broadside, which was returned by the French ship very briskly, and about three the vice-admiral's right-leg was broken to pieces by a chain-shot. In this condition he was carried down to be dressed, and while the surgeon was at work, one of his lieutenants expressed great sorrow for the loss of his leg, upon which the admiral said to him, "I am sorry for it too; but I had rather have lost them both, than have seen this dishonour brought upon the English nation. But do ye hear, if another shot should take me off, behave like brave men, and fight it out." As soon as it was practicable, he caused himself to be carried up, and placed, in his cradle, upon the quarter-deck, and continued the fight till day. They then discovered the ruins of one of the enemy's ships that carried seventy guns; her main-yard down, and shot to pieces, her fore top-sail-yard shot away, her mizen-mast shot by the board, all her rigging gone, and
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* Burchet's Naval History compared with the Journal of the Voyage.

her sides torn to pieces. The admiral, soon after, discovered the enemy standing towards him with a strong gale of wind. The Windsor, Pendennis, and Greenwich, a-head of the enemy, came to the leeward of the disabled ship, fired their broadsides, passed her, and stood to the southward. Then came the Defiance, fired part of her broadside, when the disabled ship returning about twenty guns, the Defiance put her helm a-weather, and run away right before the wind, lowered both her top-sails, and ran in to the leeward of the Falmouth, without any regard to the signal of battle. The enemy seeing the other two ships stand to the southward, expected they would have tacked and stood towards them, and therefore they brought their heads to the northward; but when they saw those ships did not tack, they immediately bore down upon the admiral, and ran between their disabled ship and him, and poured in all their shot, by which they brought down his main top-sail-yard, and shattered his rigging very much, none of the other ships being near him, or taking the least notice of his signals, though Captain Fogg ordered two guns to be fired at the ship's head, in order to put them in mind of their duty.

The French, seeing things in this condition, brought to, and lay by their own disabled ship, re-manned, and took her into tow. The Breda's rigging being much shattered, she was forced to lie by till ten o'clock, and being then refitted, the admiral ordered the captain to pursue the enemy, then about three miles to the leeward, his line of battle-signal out all the while; and Captain Fogg, by the admiral's orders, sent to the other captains, to order them to keep the line and behave like men. Upon this Captain Kirkby came on board the admiral, and told him, "He had better desist, that the French were very strong, and that from what has passed he might guess, he could make nothing of it." The brave Admiral Benbow, more surprised at this language than at all that had hitherto happened, said very calmly, that this was but one man's opinion, and therefore made a signal for the rest of the captains to come on board, which they did
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in obedience to his orders, but when they came, they fell too easily into Captain Kirkby's sentiments, and, in conjunction with him, signed a paper, importing, "that," as he had before told the admiral, "there was nothing more to be done;" though at this very time they had the fairest opportunity imaginable of taking or destroying the enemy's whole squadron: for ours consisted then of one ship of seventy guns, one of sixty-four, one of sixty, and three of fifty, their yards, masts, and, in general, all their tackle in as good condition as could be expected, the admiral's own ship excepted, in which their loss was considerable; but in the rest they had eight only killed and wounded, nor were they in any want of ammunition necessary to continue the fight. The enemy, on the other hand, had but four ships of between sixty and seventy guns, one of which was entirely disabled and in tow, and all the rest very roughly handled; so that even now, if these officers had done their duty, it is morally certain they might have taken them all. But Vice-Admiral Benbow, seeing himself absolutely without support, his own captain having signed the paper before-mentioned, determined to give over the fight and to return to Jamaica, though he could not help declaring openly, that it was against his own sentiments, in prejudice to the public service, and the greatest dishonour that had ever befallen the English navy.* The French, glad of their escape, continued their course towards the Spanish coasts, and the English squadron soon arrived safe in Port Royal harbour, where, as soon as the vice-admiral came on shore, he ordered the officers who had so scandalously misbehaved, to be brought out of their ships and confined, and immediately after directed a commission to Rear-Admiral Whetstone to hold a court-martial for their trial, which was accordingly done, and, upon the fullest and clearest evidence that could be desired, some of the most guilty were condemned and suffered according to their deserts.†

VOL. XIII.

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* So he expressed himself before the court-martial.

† Col. Kirkby and Capt. Wade, were shot April, 16, 1703, at Plymouth.

Some of the French writers, according to their usual custom, have given quite another turn to this transaction, and have endeavoured to make the world believe, that the bravery of his men, and the conduct of Commodore de Casse, enabled him to beat an English squadron of superior force, and that if he had been apprised of the shattered condition to which he had reduced them, he might have pursued and taken several, if not all the ships of which it consisted*. But de Casse himself, who was both a brave officer and an able seaman, was far enough from treating things in this way, and candidly acknowledged, that he had a very lucky and unlooked-for escape †. As for Vice-Admiral Benbow, though he so far recovered from the fever induced by his broken leg, as to be able to attend the trials of the captains who deserted him, and thereby vindicated his own honour and that of the nation; yet he still continued in a declining way, occasioned partly by the heat of the climate, but chiefly from that grief which this miscarriage occasioned, as appeared by his letters to his lady, in which he expressed much more concern for the condition in which he was likely to leave the public affairs in the West-Indies, than for his own. During all the time of his illness, he behaved

* *Histoire de S. Domingue*, tome iv. p. 203.

† Admiral Benbow boarded his ship thrice, in which he received a shot in the arm, and a wound in the face; and if he had been well seconded, would infallibly have carried that ship. This M. de Casse was so sensible of, that soon after his arrival at Carthagena, he wrote the admiral a letter, the original of which is still in the hands of the family, and the translation follows:

SIR,

I had little hopes on Monday last but to have supped in your cabin: it pleased God to order it otherwise; I am thankful for it. As for those cowardly captains who deserted you, hang them up, for by ——— they deserve it.

Your's,

DE CASSE.

behaved with great calmness and presence of mind, having never flattered himself, from the time his leg was cut off, with any hopes of recovery, but shewing an earnest desire, to be as useful as he could while he was yet living; giving the necessary directions for stationing the ships of his squadron, for protecting the commerce and incommoding the enemy. He continued thus discharging his duty to the last moment*. He died November 4th, 1702, of a consumption, brought on by his wounds, and the extreme mortification he felt at the disgrace of the British Navy by the cowards who deserted him in the moments of victory.

Vice-Admiral Benbow was a man of many virtues; but the extreme roughness of his manners and his rigid attention to discipline occasioned a dislike among some of his fellow-officers, which ultimately produced an almost irreparable loss to the service, and the merited destruction of his base and treacherous companions. "The name of Benbow is still of great and undiminished popularity in the British navy."† The vice-admiral's sister made a present of his portrait to the corporation of Shrewsbury, who caused it to be hung up in their town-hall; ‡ where it remains as a testimony of the regard his countrymen have for the memory of so worthy a man, so gallant an officer, and so true a patriot. §

The REV. HUGH FARMER, celebrated as the author of several learned and critical works, was born in 1714, near this town. He descended from a family of respectability in North Wales. The Rev. Hugh Owen, who was a candidate for the ministry, when the act of uniformity passed, and who has been distinguished among the illustrious band who sacrificed in-

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* See the *Biographia Britannica*, Vol. II. Also an account of the trials of Kirkby and others, published in 1703, and reprinted in the *Harleian Mis.* Vol. X. 8vo. edition.

† *Belsham's History of Great Britain*, Vol. II. 182.

‡ *Vide ante*, p. 144.

§ *Biog. Brit.*

terest to conscience on that occasion, was his grandfather.* Mr. Farmer received the rudiments of grammar at a school of some note, at Llanegrin, near Towyn, Merionethshire. From thence he was removed to the Warrington academy, then under the superintendence of Dr. Owen, a gentleman, as Dr. Kippis observes, of considerable learning, great piety, and one of the most amiable men ever known for a polite behaviour, sweetness of temper and manner, and a genteel address. In 1730, he removed to the academy at Northampton, under the care of the celebrated Dr. Doddridge. He was one of the doctor's earliest pupils. From Northampton he removed to Walthamstow in Essex, having become chaplain in the family of William Coward, of that place, Esq.; but the oddities in this gentleman's temper and habits soon forced him to seek refuge under the more social roof of William Hull, Esq. a solicitor of high respectability, who lived in habits of intimacy and friendship with the Lord Chancellor Hardwicke, Sir John Strange, and other persons of eminence at the bar and on the bench.

In this family Mr. Farmer continued to enjoy a life of peaceful leisure for more than thirty years. This period he chiefly employed in collecting a large fund of sacred and profane literature, intended to be produced in the defence and illustration of natural and revealed religion.† At this time, says Dr. Kippis, his congregation was very large and respectable, and adds, that he well remembers his chapel having been attended with between thirty and forty coaches.

Mr. Farmer's first appearance as an author was in a Discourse on the Suppression of the Rebellion of 1745. It was printed in 1746. In 1761, he was appointed one of the lecturers at Salter's Hall, and in the same year, appeared an "Enquiry

* Calamy.

† Gentleman's Magazine, Vol. LVI. p. 184. Urwicke's Funeral Sermon for Mr. Farmer, p. 33.

quiry into the Nature and Design of Christ's Temptation in the Wilderness," in which that event is considered as a vision, representing the different scenes of our Saviour's future ministry. This work called forth the answers of several persons.* It was spoken of by the critics of the day, as a work of considerable learning, though somewhat fanciful in its speculations, † which, after an attentive perusal, we are inclined to think is a fair and candid decision on the work.

In 1764, our author published an Appendix to his "Enquiry," containing some further observations on the subject, and an answer to objections; and in 1776, a third edition, with still further additions, made its appearance. It has, since that time, been reprinted, we believe, more than once, by "The Unitarian Society" in London, "for promoting Christian Knowledge, and the practice of Virtue;" being a work much read and generally approved of by that increasing class of Christians.

In 1771, appeared Mr. Farmer's "Dissertation on Miracles, designed to shew, that they are arguments of a divine interposition, and absolute proofs of the Mission and Doctrine of a Prophet." This is a better, and a much more useful work than the former: and has rendered considerable service to the cause of virtue and religion. It also has been reprinted by the society above mentioned, in a cheap and correct edition.

Aware of the objections to the general principles of his "Dissertation on Miracles," arising from the cure of the gospel demoniacs, Mr. Farmer, in 1775, endeavoured entirely to remove the difficulty, in "An Essay on the Demoniacs of the New Testament," whose afflictions, he maintains, were natural diseases. This is a curious, and well written performance;

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* Monthly Review, Vol. XXVII. p. 78.

† In the Monthly Repository of Theology and General Literature for 1810, are several well-written and curious letters on this mysterious subject.

but it gave much offence, at the time of its appearance, to the advocates for supernatural possessions; and greatly enraged the exorcists, who were justly zealous for the safety of their craft.

This work was answered, in 1777, somewhat roughly, by the learned and pious Dr. Worthington; and again, in 1779, by the Rev. Mr. Fell, a dissenting minister, of various literary acquirements. To the former of these antagonists Mr. Farmer gave a temperate and learned reply; but towards Mr. Fell he was not quite so gentle.

Mr. Farmer's last work appeared in 1783, and was entitled, "The General Prevalence of the Worship of Human Spirits in the ancient Heathen Nations asserted and proved," which was also attacked by Mr. Fell, who had been rather disingenuously treated in Mr. Farmer's notes, interspersed throughout his last work.*

In the year 1785, Mr. Farmer was nearly deprived of his sight, but was relieved by a surgical operation, and enabled to pursue his studies.† He died at Walthamstow, February 6th, 1787, aged seventy-three. He directed his executors to burn his papers; but some of his letters, and fragments of a Dissertation on the story of Balaam, were published in 1804, with his life prefixed.

After this sketch of Salopian biography it may be proper to notice a few of the most remarkable places, in the immediate vicinity of this venerable capital.

The SHELTON Oak, about a mile and a half from Shrewsbury, is remarkable from a tradition, that at the battle of Shrewsbury, ‡ Owen Glyndwr ascended it to reconnoitre; and finding that the king was in great force, and that the Earl of Northumberland had not joined his son Hotspur, he fell back to Oswestry, and, immediately after the battle, retreated precipitately

* See the Biog. Brit.

† Gentleman's Magazine, Vol. LVI. p. 186.

‡ Vide ante, p. 66.

tately to Wales. The following are the dimensions of this venerable tree :

	<i>Feet.</i>	<i>Inc.</i>
Girt at bottom, close to the ground	44	3
Ditto, 5 feet from the ground	25	1
Ditto, 8 feet ditto	27	4
The height of the tree to the top of the main trunk, or principal bough.....	41	6*

This tree is now very much decayed, and has a hollow at the bottom sufficient to hold, with ease, half a dozen persons.

HAUGHMOND ABBEY, of regular canons of St. Augustine, four miles east of Shrewsbury, is situated on a rising ground, backed by an extensive chace or forest, which still bears much of the original wild and romantic character. In front, the abbey commands a very rich and extensive view of the great plain of Shrewsbury, with the town and castle, enriched by mountainous tracts: in the fore-ground appears the fine demesne of Sundorn House, within which the ruins are included. These are picturesque, but not extensive.

There was formerly a farm-house on the spot ; but it has of late years been removed to some distance, and this venerable pile is now totally deserted, except by the crows and martlets, that flit around its mouldering battlements. There is no entire trace of the whole foundation ; but part of the ancient garden is still cultured for culinary purposes. Of the abbey-church, nothing remains but the south door of the nave, a most

M 4

beautiful

* See Mr. Parkes's description of the Shelton Oak, in the *Gent. Mag.* October, 1810, p. 305. The authors of the present volume of the *Beauties of England and Wales* cannot suffer this mention of the name of Mr. Parkes to pass by without acknowledging the very friendly and generous assistance that gentleman has rendered them, both during their actual survey of Shropshire, and since the commencement of their work ; particularly in his liberal communication of several drawings, the accuracy of which the subscribers will know how to appreciate, without any recommendation of theirs.

beautiful and highly adorned round arch, resting on slender shafts, between which on each side have been inserted a Gothic tabernacle, inclosing statues of St. Peter and St. Paul. The chapter-house is entire : it is oblong, with the upper end forming two sides of an hexagon. The roof is of fine oak, and above has been another story. The entrance is by a richly decorated round arch, with a window on each side, divided into two round arched compartments, by slender short pillars. Like the door of the church, the spaces between the shafts of these arches have *Gothic niches*, and statues of the Virgin Mary, the angel Gabriel, St. Catharine, St. John, &c. South of the chapter-house, and opposite the site of the church, are remains of the refectory, and beyond a large building consisting of a spacious hall, eighty-one feet by thirty-six, lighted by Gothic windows on each side, and a large one, once filled with tracery at the west end. On the north side is a curious antique fireplace.

Communicating with this, at the eastern extremity, and at right angles, is another apartment of nearly the same size, once evidently in two rooms. At the south end is an elegant bay window, very perfect. Above this part has been an upper story. It is conceived this range of building formed the abbot's lodging and hall. The abbey belongs to John Corbet, Esq. who takes great care to preserve it.

This abbey was founded in the year 1100, being the last of King William Rufus, by William Fitz-Alan, as appears by bulls of Pope Alexander the Third, and he conferred on it the land on which it stood, with all its appurtenances. All grants made to these canons are recited and confirmed in the charter of the 13th of Edward the Second. William Zouch also by deed confirmed to them the grant of the mill of Rocheford, made by his ancestors.

Henry the Second, at the request of Alured, abbot of St. John's of Haughmond, granted to William Fitz-Alan, or his heirs for ever, the keeping of this abbey, and all its possessions,

in

in times of vacation ; so that neither Henry nor any of his successors, kings of England, should ever intermeddle in the affairs thereof, upon the death of any abbot.

In the third Henry the Fifth, the abbot Ralph, and the monks of Haughmond, at the request of Thomas, Earl of Arundel and Surrey, granted to Robert Lee of Uffington, a corrody for life, to be a 'squire to the abbot, with one servant and two horses ; taking sufficient meat and drink for himself, and his servant, with hay and corn for his horses, whensoever he should be in the monastery. It was also granted him to have cloth for the habit or livery, usually worn by the rest of the abbots' 'squires.

Richard, bishop of Coventry, authorized this monastery to appoint a sacrist under the abbot, who might baptize as well Jews as infants, and exercise parochial jurisdiction upon their friends and servants. The abbot Nicholas ordered a new kitchen to be built, assigning certain revenues for defraying the expense of fish and flesh, and twenty hogs to be kept for bacon.

Pope Alexander the third, in the year 1172, granted to the abbots and monks of this monastery many valuable privileges and immunities,* which were all confirmed by the Popes Honorius the Third, Nicholas the Third, Boniface the Ninth, and Martin the Fourth.

Leland says, " there was an hermitage and a chapel on this spot before the abbey was built. William Fitz-Allen and his wife, with Robert Fitz-Allen and others, are there buried, also Richard Fitz-Allen, a child, who fell out of his nurse's arms from the battlements of Shrawardine Castle."†

The yearly revenues, at the dissolution, were £259 13s. 7d.¹/₄ according to Dugdale ; and £294 12s. 9d. according to Speed. It is registered as in the custody of one William Barker, in the year 1653, who, with his family, it is said, are buried under an old tomb-

* Dugdale's *Monasticon Anglicanum*.

† *Itinerary*, Vol. VIII. p. 129.

tomb-stone in the vestry of St. Mary's church.* Such is a faint outline of the ancient history of Haughmond abbey.

Behind the abbey, on the verge and slope of the hill, runs a wood of some extent; and emerging from thence, lie the fine lands of Mr. Corbet, adorned on one side by a rich plantation and a hill, crowned with a shooting-box in the form of an ancient turret. Near it, Lord Douglas, in the battle of Shrewsbury, was taken prisoner, in attempting to precipitate himself down the steep, when his horse fell under him, and he received a severe contusion on his knee. The piece of armour, covering the knee-pan, was some years ago dug up, and is now in the possession of Mr. Corbet.

BATTLEFIELD, about four miles east of Shrewsbury, is remarkable as the scene of the memorable battle of Shrewsbury. Pennant remarks, that Henry, after slaughtering five thousand people in his bad cause, most piously returned thanks to the Giver of all victories; and erected, or permitted to be erected, on the spot probably stained with most blood, the collegiate church of Battlefield, in the parish of Albrighton.†

This church consists of a nave and choir without aisles, and at the west end a very well proportioned square tower, embattled and crowned with eight pinnacles. The whole is lighted by twelve handsome Gothic windows, with a larger eastern window. Those of the choral division are in an earlier style than the rest, and were doubtless the fabric built, in the time of the founder. The western portion, by its style and inscription on the tower, appears to have been erected in the reign of Henry the Seventh. Over the east window, in a niche, is a statue of Henry the Fourth.

Although this church is still parochial, the nave and steeple are ruinous, and deprived of their roofs. The chancel only is used for divine service, and has been within the last century fitted up in a modern and incongruous fashion. The whole
was

* Phillips.

† Tour in Wales, Vol. III. p. 258, 8vo. edition, 1810.

was entire within the memory of persons now living. The choir was furnished with handsome stalls, and the windows were resplendent with very fine painted glass, representing the history of the death of John the Baptist, with various portraits of the warriors who fell on the king's side, in the battle of Shrewsbury; their arms and cognizances.

When the shameful mutilation of the church took place, this glass was taken down, and entrusted to the care of a neighbouring farmer, who suffered children and servants to break and disperse it, so that when it was to be replaced, a few fragments only could be found, which are now fixed in the east window, and by their great beauty, excite the deepest regret for the sacrilegious destruction of the rest. In one of the stone seats of the officiating priests near the altar, is a mutilated female figure in stone, with a dead Christ on her lap. It must have been removed from some other situation.

In a plot of ground, adjoining the church-yard, there is a mound of earth, where the slain in the battle are said to have been buried. A grove of young oaks waves over them, and the grass grows green on their graves. The piece of land, now called *King's Croft*, is the place on which, as is supposed, Henry pitched his tent.

Dugdale gives the following account of this church: King Henry the Fourth, in the fourth year of his reign, 1403, gave and granted to Roger Ive, of Leaton, rector of the chapel of St. John Baptist, at Albrighton Husee, in the county of Salop, a piece of ground, with all the buildings on it, with the Lordship of Albrighton Husee, near Shrewsbury, on the field called Battlefield, where a battle had been lately fought between the said King Henry and Henry Piercy, whose adherents he calls rebels; which piece of ground was ditched in, and contained in length and breadth two acres of land, together with two inlets and outlets, along the lands of Richard Husee, one twenty feet wide, and the other fifteen feet wide. This piece of ground had been granted to the aforesaid Roger, by the said Richard Husee,

Husee, (who held the same of the King) for him to build thereon a chapel, in honour of St. Mary Magdalene; of which the said Roger and his successors were for ever to be called Masters, and for five other chaplains to pray for the king's good state while he lived, and after his death, for his soul, and those of Richard Husee, and Isolda, his wife, and those of their heirs; and finally, for the souls of all that fell in battle on that fatal spot.* This devout bargain was accordingly struck, and the royal grant duly made out, which enjoined that the chapel of St. John Baptist should be for ever annexed to the collegiate church, and that Richard Husee and his heirs should be perpetual patrons of the same; as also, that Roger Ive and his successors might appropriate to themselves the parish church of St. Michael Eskirke, in Lancashire, and the parish of St. Andrew, at Idesale, with the free royal chapel of St. Michael, in Shrewsbury castle, and that of St. Juliana, in the same town. The master and chaplains to be for ever exempt from tenths, fifteenths, subsidies, tallages, contributions, or any other impositions from the crown; and also to have a fair there, at the annual festival of St. Mary Magdalene.† Roger Ive, by his will, dated 1444, ordered his body to be buried near the high altar of this church. He also bequeathed to the five wardens in his college, three silver-gilt chalices; one paxbrede of silver-gilt; two silver cruets; three brass bells, hanging in the belfry; two cases, after the manner of Sarum, otherwise called lyggers; three gilt copper crosses; two missals; two new graduals; three old missals, covered with red leather; one old case; one processional; one executor of the office; one book of collects; four placebo, and dirige; one pair of vestments, of red velvet; one red velvet cope, with two velvet dalmaticks; one pair of vestments of white silk; one white silk cope, with two dalmaticks; four pairs of other vestments; one yearly manual. He also bequeathed to them a mansion for themselves, with proper offices,

* Monasticon, Vol. III. Part II. p. 185. Pennant, Vol. III. p. 259.

† Monasticon, *ubi supra*.

offices, and various kitchen and other utensils. Also, the profits and emoluments of the parish church of St. Michael, at Wyre, in the diocese of York, as also those of the church of St. Juliana, in Salop; with various other similar legacies and grants.

The five chaplains were to live in community, and not any one of them ever be absent from the college, without the master's leave, on forfeiture of three shillings for every offence. The annual allowance of each was ten marks, besides four-pence a week for their good performance of the divine office enjoined them.*

The clear annual revenues of this college, at the time of the dissolution, were 54l. 1s. 10d.†

The next place of particular note is WROXETER, a parish in the hundred of South Bradford, five miles south-east of Shrewsbury, containing about one hundred houses, and five or six hundred inhabitants.

This, on several accounts, is one of the most interesting places in the county. Its high antiquity, the many remains of its ancient importance, and the circumstance of its having contributed very much to enlarge, if not even to produce, the present capital of the county itself, all tend to press its history and description on the notice of the antiquary, the medalist, the historian, and the topographer; nor have these claims been urged in vain: few persons, curious in antiquarian research, have overlooked this rich and valuable source; yet no regular and connected account of it has been given to the public, and the impenetrable obscurity of its ancient history now precludes the possibility of any detailed description of its real form, origin, and splendour.

It has been disputed whether this place is the same as the *Urioconium*,‡ mentioned by Antoninus; but the general opinion,

* *Monasticon*.

† Tanner, p. 456.

‡ Mr. Salmon places this Roman station and city at Wrottesley, in Staffordshire; but the late learned and judicious Mr. Gough, whose authority we

nion, and probably the most correct one, is in favour of the affirmative side of the question. The town, notwithstanding its present confined limits, was once very large, and the fortified ground extensive. It is seated in the north-east side of the Severn, and on the other side of the place runs a small rivulet.

A rampart and ditch, with remains of walls, three yards in thickness, and as many miles in circumference, still mark out the ancient boundaries of the city and fortress.

The most probable conjecture concerning the origin of Wroxeter is, that it owes its foundation to the Britons; and that the Romans, who probably adopted a British name in their pronunciation of Uriconium, Wriconium, synonymous with the present *Wrekin*, q. d. Wrekincester,* very much enlarged and strengthened it. It was a principal city, probably the capital, of the Cornavii, and was succeeded in that distinction by Shrewsbury.† The exact period of its destruction is involved in nearly as much darkness as that of its origin. Leland‡ says, “The destruction of *Roxcester*, by all likelihood, was the cause of the erection of Shrewsbury: for Roxcester was a goodly walled towne until it was destroyed by the Danes.” But Bishop Gibson asserts he had it from an eye witness, that none of the coins dug up at this place were Saxon, whence the city is supposed to have been destroyed before the Saxon, and consequently, not in the Danish times. Baxter, on the other hand, from a forced derivation of the Saxon word *wrackt*, or destroyed, draws a different inference. Whatever, however, may have been the period of its origin, or that of its destruction, Wroxeter, has long been celebrated for the many Roman and British antiquities that have, from time to time, been
we shall follow, and of whose labours we shall here, as in many other places, avail ourselves, has shewn this to be a mistake.

* Gough's Additions to Camden, Vol. III. p. 27.

† Vide ante, p. 49.

‡ Itin. Vol. IV. 181--6.

been discovered in the town and neighbourhood; and with a concise account of some of the most remarkable ancient remains we must close our notice of it.

A piece of the old wall is yet standing, nearly eight yards high, and twenty in length, which has in it three regular strata of Roman brick. A square Sudatory, with four rows of brick flues, under its floor, was discovered, but destroyed.* There are models of this, and of one of the brick flues, as also part of the tessalated pavement preserved in Shrewsbury school library. The remains of the walls, or old buildings, are called, by the present inhabitants, the Old Works of Wroxeter. They are a mixture of British and Roman architecture. Where these remains appear, it is thought the citadel stood; which opinion is supposed to be favoured by the unevenness of the ground, and the rubbish of walls lying thereabouts.

In 1721, Mr. Carte, of Leicester, gave the Society of Antiquaries the following account of the Old Work, with a rude draught:

“The main wall now standing is thirty yards long, and the foundation from it westward forty yards, so that the whole was twenty yards long. The middle arch six yards high from the ground; but from the floor much higher, and six yards broad, the other two only four yards broad, but of the same height. The hole in the middle arch is supposed to be broken through, and so is the other. At each end are smooth walls coming out of the end of the arches; the foundation answering the main wall and arches ten yards high from it. Two rows of tiles go through the wall. The stones are laid exactly across each other; in the middle rubbish and pebbles. The arches seem covered with the same as the wall. It is now eight yards from the ground; the north side smooth, except some holes, as for scaffolds.” In Mr. Lloyd’s time, this piece of wall was twenty feet high, and a hundred long.†

The

* Philosophical Transactions, No. 306. Baxter, v. *Veroconium*. Gough’s Cam. III. 23.

† Phillips, whose work was published in 1779, gives these last dimensions

The Roman coins found here, are chiefly of the lower empire, and are usually called Dynders, most likely a corruption of *Denarii*. In 1752, were dug up, in a field about two hundred yards from the old walls, three sepulchral inscriptions, of which mention is made in a former part of this volume.* Another has been found since, and fastened against the vicarage house. A plate and description of it may be seen in the third volume of Mr. Gough's edition of Camden's *Britannia*. †

Besides many urns, there have been found entire human skeletons, ‡ in deep and capacious graves, having red clay spread both over and under them, and covered with thin slabs of stone, over which were heaped, in some instances, five or six larger stones, with clay. These graves were also faced on their sides with thin slates. § Here also have been found at various times, several moulds for forging Roman money; five of which have been amply described by Mr. Henry Baker, in No. 483, of the *Philosophical Transactions*.

The following list of coins, found at Wroxeter, and drawn up by the Rev. Francis Leighton, of Ford, near Shrewsbury, a gentleman of almost universal learning, the most profound research, especially in etymological studies, and of urbane and genuine English manners, || is both curious and important:

SILVER.

as existing at that period. This must have been an oversight: no reference being there made to Mr. Lloyd's MSS.

* Page 131.

† Page 23.

‡ Mr. Phillips asserts, on what authority we know not, that "teeth have been taken out of the jaw-bones of men, near three inches long, and thigh bones near a yard in length!" *Hist. and Antiq. Shrews.* p. 200.

§ Phillips.

|| In awarding to Mr. Leighton this just meed of praise, we are only in part discharging a debt of gratitude, for the kind and liberal attentions he paid us during our late tour in Shropshire.

SILVER.

IMP. SER. GALBA AVG.

S. P. Q. R. OB. C.S. in corona civica.

IMP. TRAIANO AVG. GER. DAC. P.M. TRP.

COS. S. P. Q. R. OPTIMO PRINC. Figura stolata stans dextra, læva cornucopiæ.

ANTONINVS PIVS AVG.

FELICITAS AVGG. Figura muliebris stolata stans, læva cornucopia, dextra

IVLIA MAESA.

FORTVNA REDVX. Figura sedens.

COPPER.

IMP. CLAVDIVS AVG.

Figura sedens, dextra hastam.

IMP. CAES. VESPASIAN. AVG. COS. VIII. P. P.

S. C. Victoria, dextra sertum.

IMP. CAES. NERVAE TRAIANO AVG. GER. DAC. P.M.

TR. P. COS. V. P. P.

S. C. S. P. Q. R. OPTIMO PRINCIPI.

Figura globo insidens sub trophæo.

IMP. CAESAR TRAIANVS NERVA AVG.

Figura sedens.

ANTONINVS PIVS. T. R. . . P.

S. C. Mulier stolata stans.

DIVUS M. ANTONINVS PIVS.

..NSECI S. C. Aquila rogo insidens.

IMP. L. VERVS AVG.

PROV. DEOR. T. R. P. III. COS. II.

Figura stans, dextra globum, læva cornucopiæ.

Severus.

S. S. . . Figura stolata stans.

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N

IVLIA

IVLIA AVGVSTA.

PIETAS AVGG.

Figura ara adstans.

IVLIA MAMMAEA AVGVSTA.

S. C. Mulier stolata, dextra hastam

D. N. CONSTA . . . VS AVG.

FEL. TEMP. REPARATI.

Columba rostro ramum gerens.

Diocletian.

SACRA MONETA AVGG. ET CAES.

Dea Moneta.

IMP. CARAVSIVS.

.
IMP. C. ALLECTVS P. F. AVG.

Another; rev. a galley.

FL. CONSTA . . .

GLORIA EXERCITVS.

IMP. LICINIVS. P. F. AVG.

SEN. POP. ROM. B. S. TRP.

Genius stans, læva cornucopiæ.

CONSTANTINVS P. P. AVG.

SOLI INVICTO COMITI.

FL. IVL. CRISPVS. . . CAES.

CAES ALVMNO. NOSTRORVM. Sertum in quo VOTVM.

D. N. MAGNENTIVS P. F. AVG.

VICTORIÆ DD. NN. AVG. ET CAES.

VOT

Duo figuræ alatæ scutum tenentes in quo

V.

in exergue TRS.

MVLT

X. *

At the bottom of the Severn, at low water, may still be seen foundations of stone, probably of a bridge; though the celebrated Roman road, now called Watling-street, went through the middle of the city, and through the ford, now called

Wroxeter

* Gough's Camden, III. 26, 27.

Wroxeter Ford, as is to be discovered by the old *strait*, or *street*, way, pointing exactly to it on each side of the river. * The Roman Portway ran hence to the Strettons. †

One of the last pieces of antiquity dug up at this place, is mentioned by Mr. David Parkes, in the Gentleman's Magazine. ‡ It is a seal, found in 1808, by a person ploughing in a field near the Roman wall. A correct representation of this curious relique, and also of an impression of it, are given in the Magazine; but of the Legend Mr. Parkes observes, no one has yet been able to give a satisfactory reading, though several have attempted it. The letters, as nearly as we are able to delineate them in this work, are on a circular surface, as follow :

IBCLM
DIA LBA
IAD O M
§NE Δ VN
O EXO

There is, near the edge of the seal, on the surface, a small bent figure, somewhat resembling a single branch or stem of a tree. The diameter of the seal is one inch.

The present town of Wroxeter does not possess many claims on public notice, besides what it derives from its ancient importance, and its almost inexhaustible source of antiquarian treasure. In the church is a monument for Sir Thomas Bromley, Lord Chief Justice of England, one of the executors of Henry the Eighth's will. He died 1555, and his daughter married a person of the name of Newport. There are also monuments of Sir Richard Newport, ancestor of the Earls of Bradford, 1570; Francis, the first Lord Bradford, 1708; his brother Andrew, 1699; and his son Thomas, Earl of Torrington,

N 2

1719.

* Gibson's Camden.

† Lloyd's MSS.

‡ Vol. LXXX. p. 617.

§ In the manner of Æ Diphthong.

1719. The living is a vicarage stated in the king's books at £11. 8s.

About a mile from Wroxeter, between the Watling Street and the Severn, the lofty and venerable WREKIN,* stretches "its slow length along." The view from its highest point is delightfully awful. The vast plain of Salop, stretched like a carpet below, with its various inclosures and intersecting hedges, diminishing in apparent extent as they recede from the eye, till they appear like the meshes of a net; the bold outline of the Welsh hills; the romantic aspect of the Caer Caradoc, the Lawley, and the Stiper-stones, with intervening varieties of hill and dale—here and there a wood or a forest, which, from the towering height of this natural pyramid, seem to dwindle into an insignificant garden, are objects that here meet the eye in every direction, and fill the mind with admiration at the wonderful works of the mighty Architect of Nature.

At no great distance from the foot of the Wrekin, in a south easterly direction, and on the immediate banks of the Severn, over which there was formerly a bridge of very ancient erection, lies a small place, called BUILDWAS. The bridge was built, as some, perhaps erroneously, suppose, for the convenience of the famous abbey at this place. It consisted of very narrow arches, and was a great obstruction to the navigation of the Severn. It was carried away by a high flood in 1795, and has been replaced by an elegant iron one at the expense of the county, from a plan given to Mr. Telford of Shrewsbury, as county surveyor. This bridge, of which a plan, elevation, and section are given in Archdeacon Plymley's Report, was executed in a masterly manner by the Coalbrook Dale Company, and finished in 1796. The span of the arch is one hundred and thirty feet, and the rise twenty-four feet. But, as the roadway could not with propriety be carried to a great height, advantage

* Its natural history we have attempted in page 21, et seq. of this volume.

vantage was taken of the Schaffhausen principle, by making the outer ribs rise to the top of the railing, and connecting them with the lower ribs by means of dove-tailed king-posts.*

But Buildwas is more extensively celebrated for the remains of an *Abbey of Cistercians*, founded in the year 1135, by Roger, Bishop of Chester, for monks of the Order of Savigny, united afterwards to the Cistercians. It was dedicated to St. Mary and St. Chad. The foundation was confirmed by King Stephen in the year 1139. It had afterwards many noble benefactions and donations; several of them were confirmed by the charter of King Richard the First, anno 1189, being the first year of his reign; and Henry the Second, by his charter to the abbot Randolph, subjected the abbey of St. Mary's Dublin, to the abbots of this place. Leland, in his Itinerary, says, "Matilda de Bohun, wife to Sir Robert Burnell, was founder of Buildwas Abbey; though some, for the only gift of the site of the house, take the Bishope of Chester for their founder." Camden seems likewise to be of the same opinion, as he mentions Buildwas as the burial place of the family of the Burnells, patrons thereof, but among all the charters of the Monasticon there is no mention of this Matilda or Sir Robert, but the foundation is in two or three places expressly ascribed to Roger, Bishop of Chester.

About the time of the suppression here were twelve monks, who were endowed with one hundred and ten pounds nineteen shillings and threepence per annum, according to Dugdale; but Speed estimates the value at one hundred and twenty-nine pounds six shillings and tenpence. The site, with all the lands belonging to this monastery, in Shropshire, Staffordshire, and Derbyshire, were granted to Edward Lord Powis, in the twenty-ninth year of the reign of Henry the Eighth.†

N 3

It

* Rev. Archdeacon Plymley's Report, p. 316.

† Grose's Antiquities.

It stands on the south bank of the Severn, in a rich pastoral valley, backed with woody banks, about eleven miles from Shrewsbury. The walls of the abbey church are nearly entire. This was (as was almost universal in monastic churches) cruciform, with a massive tower in the middle of the cross. The nave has on each side seven thick round pillars, excepting the two nearest the choir, which are square, with large square indented capitals, from whence spring arches with obtuse points.—Above is a clere-story of very small round-headed windows. The tower, of which the lower story remains, rests on four wide-pointed arches, springing from brackets in the walls. The east end of the choir has three narrow round-arched windows, as has also that of the nave. There never was any *western* door here, which is singular. The side aisles, transept, and chapels of the choir are in total ruin. Under the south wing of the transept is a crypt, now converted into an excellent beer cellar, belonging to a good house made out of the abbot's lodge. The whole church had been groined with stone, the feet of the brackets, from whence the ribs sprang, are still remaining, neatly carved on the walls. On the north side the nave is the area of the cloyster, now a farm yard. On the east is the chapter house, still perfect. It is a parallelogram 43 by 33 feet. The groined roof springs from two slender octagonal pillars on each side, dividing it into three aisles. The entrance is by a round arch, with the chevron moulding, and on each side it are circular head windows, in the same style. Over the chapter house, and the other apartments forming the east side of the cloyster, are the remains of a second story, which was perhaps the dormitory. The dimensions of the cloyster court were 101 feet by 90. At the south eastern angle is a passage, which leads to an irregular area eastward of the cloyster, about 90 feet by 75. On the north and east sides of this, are ranges of lofty pointed arches, which probably formed the monks' refectory, and in the center are the remains of a square tower. This most picturesque ruin
presents

presents some curious specimens of the architecture of the period when the *round arch* was giving way to the *pointed*, though still keeping its place in many parts of the fabric. The view of this venerable church from the west end is very striking; the huge pillars, with their bold arches and projecting capitals in perspective, receding behind each other. The four wide and lofty arches under the tower, a great fragment of that prominent feature hanging over the ruins below, the whole terminated by the narrow round windows of the gloomy choir, and this scene of desolation contrasted with the gay verdure and scattered shrubs which now cloathe the area, and the luxuriant ivy mantling the walls, altogether form a solemn picture of fallen monastic greatness, rarely surpassed.

Buildwas parish is in the hundred of south Bradford, and contains between fifty and sixty houses, and about two hundred and fifty-eight inhabitants.

GREAT, OR MUCH WENLOCK

is about thirteen miles south-east of Shrewsbury. It is a borough, market town, and parish, containing four hundred and sixty-seven houses, and, according to the census of 1801, 1981 inhabitants. The town is ill built, consisting only of two streets, but is a very ancient corporation, and is said to have been the first town that sent members to parliament, by a writ from Edward the Fourth in 1478, when it sent one member; but now, together with Broseley and Little Wenlock, it returns two; at present (1810) Cecil Forester, Esq. on his own interest, and the Hon. J. Simpson, under the influence of Lord Bradford. The free burgesses, who are the electors, amount to one hundred and ten.

The corporation, by charter from Charles the First, consists of a bailiff, recorder, two justices of the peace, and twelve capital burgesses.

Wenlock gives name to a deanery, and to that part of the hundred, which in Domesday Book is called Patinterne Hundred. The British name is *Llan Meilein*, or St. Milburg's

church.* In the reign of Richard the Second, this place was as famous for copper mines, as it is at present for quarries of limestone. Leland† describes it as “a markett towne, where was an abbey of blak monkes, passing over an high hille, called Wenlock Edge.” But Wenlock owes its celebrity principally to the remains of an ancient ABBEY, subsequently converted to a MONASTERY for CLUNIACS.

This house was, as it is said, founded about the year 680, by Milburga, daughter of King Merwald, and niece to Wolphere, King of Mercia; she presided as abbess over it, and at her death was buried there. According to Matthew of Westminster, her grave was long after discovered by accident, when many miracles were performed.‡ The monastery was destroyed by the Danes, but restored by Leofric, Earl of Chester, in the time of Edward the Confessor; but again falling into decay, and being forsaken, it was, in the 14th of William the Conqueror, rebuilt and endowed by Roger de Montgomery, Earl of Arundel, Chichester, and Shrewsbury, a person of vast possessions in those parts, so says William of Malmesbury; but both Brompton and Leland attribute its restoration to Warine, Earl of Shrewsbury.

This last refounder (whoever he was) placed therein a prior and convent of Cluniac monks, who were looked upon as a cell of the house de Caritate, in France; and suffered the same fate with other alien priories till the 18th of Richard the Second, when it was made indigenous, or naturalized. In Rymer this is called the second house of the order; but Prynne mentions it as a cell to the abbey of Cluni. It was dedicated to St. Milburga, and, at the 26th of Henry the Eighth, had revenues to the yearly value of 40l. 7d. q. clear, according to Dugdale, and 434l. 1s. 2d. ob. in the whole. It was granted 36th of Henry the

* Gough's Camden, Vol. III. p. 21.

† It. Vol. V. p. 182.

‡ William of Malmesbury, in the Life of Edward the Confessor, relates, that on rebuilding the Abbey Church, the tomb of the foundress being broken in, such a sweet odour came from it, as, among other miracles, cured the King's Evil; *regius morbus medicis sane incurabilis*. De gest. Pontif. IV. p. 164.

the Eighth, to Augustino de Augustini. This monastery was first called Winnicas,* but in after times its legal style was Wenlock Magna, or Moche Wenlock.

In the Monasticon is the patent of King Edward the Third, reciting and confirming the charter of Isabel de Say, Lady of Clun, whereby she granted to these monks the church of St. George, at Clun, with seven chapels depending on it; namely, the chapel of St. Thomas in Clun; of St. Mary, at Waterdune; of St. Swithin, at Clumbierie; St. Mary, at Clintune; St. Mary, at Appitune; with those of Eggedune and Subbledune.† There is likewise an inquisition, taken the 29th of Edward the First, determining the right of presentation to the cell of Ferne to be in the monks of Wenlock. In Stevens's Supplement,‡ seven deeds are translated into English from the Latin originals, in the hands of Francis Canning, of Foxcote, Esq. in the county of Warwick, viz. the deed of Geoffrey de Say, for the manor of Dointun; a confirmation of that deed by Henry the Second; another deed of the same king, granting that these monks might always enjoy the said manor, unless he or his heirs gave them eleven pounds per annum, in churches or other things, in lieu of it; the Charter of Henry the Third to them for the said manor, anno regni, 46. p. 15. The deeds of William Mitleton and Adam Fitzwilliam, about a yard-land in Mitleton. A composition between Simon, Dean of Brug, and the prior and convent of Wenlock, about the chapel of Dudinton.

GERVAS PAGANEL, pursuant to his father's design, founded at Dudley, in Staffordshire, anno 1161, a priory for the invocation of St. James, for the monks of St. Milburga, of Wenlock, giving them the ground on which the said church of St. James stood, as also the church of St. Edmond and St. Thomas, at Dudley, and those of Norkphel, Segesle, Ingepenne, and

* *Venti locus*, or *Windy place*. Lloyd's MSS.

† Dug. Monast. Vol. I. p. 613.

‡ Vol. II. p. 14.

and Bradsil, with the tithe of his bread, game, and fish, as long as he resided at Dudley, or at Herden; also grazing, wood, and divers other privileges. This house was always considered as a cell to Wenlock, and after the Dissolution, its lands were granted as a parcel thereof.

The following list of priors is collected from Browne Willis's History of Abbeys, and his Series of Principals of Religious Houses, printed in Tanner's Notitia; and from the former are taken the sums that remained in charge.

Imbertus, prior about the year 1145. Peter de Leja, promoted from this dignity, anno 1176, to the see of St. David's. Joybertus occurs Prior anno 1198, he was also prior of Daven-try and Coventry. Richard, elected 1221. Gycardes 1265. Aymo de Montibus, 1270, who was succeeded in 1272, by John de Tyeford. John Turbe occurs Prior in the beginning of the reign of Edward the First, about the year 1277. His successor was Henry de Bonville, anno 1291 and 1297; Henry elected 1325; Henry de Myons elected 1363; Roger Wyvel 1395; John Stafford 1422; William Brugge, on whose resignation anno 1437, 16th of Henry the Sixth, Roger Barry was admitted prior; William Walwyn elected 1462; John Stratton elected 1468; John Shrewsbury elected 1479; Thomas Sutbury elected 1482; Richard Wenlock 1485; Richard Singar—Rowland Gracewell, elected 1521; John Cressage, alias Baylis, who, surrendering this convent January 26th, 1539, had a pension assigned him of 80l. per annum. Anno 1553, here remained in charge 7l. 13s. 4d. in fees, and 75l. 10s. 6d. in annuities and corrodies; and these pensions, namely, to Richard Fenny-more and William Benge, 6l. each; William Morphey, John Leighe, Thomas Balle, and John Hopkins, 5l. 6s. 8d. each. The arms of this monastery were azure three garbs, or, in pale a croisier argent.*

The rich *Cluniac Monastery of Wenlock* is situated in a low valley, on the south side of the town, adjoining the east end

* Grose.

end of the churchyard. Towards the country it is partly surrounded with gentle eminences, now bare indeed, but once, no doubt covered with wood. The entrance from the town was by a strong gateway, one massive tower of which is now standing. Very considerable fragments still remain, especially of the church: of this, a large portion of the south side of the nave, the whole south wing of the transept, several arches of the north, and the foundations of the choir and Lady Chapel still appear. The church was a very spacious and magnificent fabric. It is evident from the vestiges yet existing, that this structure was of the pure early Gothic of the thirteenth century. The west front consisted of a large triplet lancet window, as may be determined from the style of the jamb of one of the lights, still to be traced, with its slender round shafts, and deep mouldings bound with rings. The ornamental parts of this front were composed of several tiers of small arches with trefoil heads, in the manner of those at Salisbury, Wells, &c. Underneath are the outlines of the great door of entrance, which appears to have been deeply recessed; but the pillars and ribs of the arch are gone. The fragment of the south side of the nave consists of three pointed arches, which have never been open; but *within* them are inserted lower arches of a similar form on octagonal pillars, which originally communicated with the south-side aisle. Over the higher arches are the remains of a beautiful gallery, which ran along the whole second story of the church, and consisted of a series of two pointed arches, divided by slender clustered pillars, within the the span of each greater arch below: above these are single lancet windows, forming the clere-story. Between every arch runs a slender clustered pilaster, and, where they break off at the top, are remains of the ramifications of a groined ceiling. Part of the south-side aisle is now a stable; it has a plain groined roof, and over it is a large vaulted chamber of the same size. This room probably adjoined to the dormitory of the monks, and was occupied by those whose task it was to perform the
midnight

midnight office in the choir. The south wing of the transept consists of three pointed arches, with a gallery and clere-story, similar to those of the nave. The lower members of two of the great columns which supported the centre steeple are visible, and appear to have been richly clustered. There are no other remains of the choir than the foundations of six pillars, which are round. The Lady Chapel, or Chapel of the Virgin Mary, was eastward of the choir, and may be traced by its foundations, which seem to have been of a later date than the rest of the church. The dimensions of this stately abbey church prove it to have been inferior in size, as well as beauty, to most cathedrals. Whole length from east to west, 401 feet; of nave, 156; of space under middle tower, 39; choir, 156; Virgin Mary's Chapel, 48 by 40; breadth of nave and aisles, 66. Adjoining the south side of the nave, was the great cloyster, which was encompassed by the refectory, dormitory, chapter-house, &c. Of the former, considerable, but imperfect, fragments remain. The whole shell of the chapter-house is standing, a most singular and curious specimen of early Norman architecture. It is an oblong square, 66 feet by 31. The entrance is by a rich round arched door, on each side of which is a broad round-headed window. The walls are divided into three compartments on each side by short pilasters with indented capitals, from whence spring a groined roof. The portion of wall between these spaces has a stone seat below, and over it a series of interlaced arches arising from a row of small shafts, which arches rise one over the other in many tiers to the very roof.—South-eastward of the great cloyster was the house or lodge of the prior, which seems to have inclosed a quadrangular court, now converted into a farm-house. The buildings on the eastern and north sides are nearly entire, and were the living apartments of the prior. The whole eastern side has a singular cloyster or ambulatory in front, consisting of very narrow pointed arches now open, but once evidently glazed and divided into an upper and lower story.—This leads

to the principal rooms: two chambers in the upper story have been little altered; traces of ancient painting, particularly the figure of St. George, may be observed on the walls.—In one is a deeply recessed window, in which is a sort of stone trough, and a singular kind of gutter to carry off moisture, &c. without the rudiments of a modern water closet. Perhaps, however, this might have been a lavatory. Below is the prior's private oratory, now a dairy; the altar, a very fine slab of red stone, remains entire. Fragments of this opulent monastery are scattered to a great distance. The whole precinct included full thirty acres. This priory, with almost the whole town, is the property of Sir Watkin William Wynne, Bart.

Somewhat above half a century ago, a considerable part of the ruins were taken down by an agent of the manor to rebuild some houses of which he had a lease; but the late Sir Watkin William Wynne put a stop to any further demolition. Here are no remarkable monuments nor inscriptions, neither have any such been dug up, although it is said, that the body of King Merwald was found in a wall of the church.

The common people have an absurd tradition of a subterraneous communication between this house and Buildwas Abbey, which has not the least foundation in truth, the nature of the ground rendering such an attempt impracticable; but indeed there is scarce an old monastery in England but has had some such story told of it, especially if it was a convent of men, and had a nunnery in its neighbourhood. These reports were probably invented and propagated in order to exaggerate the dissolute lives of the monks and nuns, and thereby to reconcile the multitude to the suppression of religious houses.

This monastery and manor, soon after the Dissolution, came into possession of Thomas Lawley, Esq. who lived in the house. By a marriage with a Lawley it devolved to Robert Bertie, Esq. of the Ancaster family, and from him it passed into the family of Gage, but whether by marriage or purchase, Grose, whom we are now quoting, says he had not been able to learn. Sir

John

John Wynn, of Wyntsay, in the county of Denbigh, bought it of Lord Viscount Gage, and devised it, with his other estates, to his kinsman, the late Sir Watkin William Wynne, Bart. whose son of the same name is the present proprietor.*

The parish church of Wenlock, a vicarage of the annual value of 12l. 9s. 7d., adjoining the ruinous priory, bears many marks of Saxon antiquity. A large round arch separates the nave of the church from the chancel: at the west end is a square tower, with circular headed windows, from which arises a very neat slender spire of wood, covered with lead. On the right of the altar are some Gothic niches; but there is no monument of sufficient antiquity or sculpture to attract the notice of the antiquarian, though its interior is well fitted up.

But, whatever deficiency there may be in this respect, as far as concerns the present church of Wenlock, the famous monastery, which we have just attempted to describe, has attached to it one of the most important instances of genealogical and biographical inquiry that has perhaps ever engaged the attention of readers curious in such matters.

The real origin of the royal family of the Stewarts has long perplexed the most ingenious and indefatigable genealogists; it is, therefore, with some satisfaction, that we are able to trace this renowned family to the county of Salop; a circumstance that cannot fail to yield some degree of pleasure to the natives of that district, whose high and noble spirit will prompt them to venerate the name, however their more enlightened views may induce them to reject the principles, of that illustrious house.

The several histories, particularly Symon's historical Account, all trace this family to a Thane of Lochaber, who is said to have flourished in the ninth century; but Lord Hailes has demonstrated that these histories are all of them fabulous genealogies, without being able to determine, where, and what was the com-
mencement

* Antiquities.

ment of this family.* This opinion is adopted by the late Andrew Stewart, who wrote the *Genealogical History of the Stewarts*;† but he has not been able to make any advances, in the road of discovery, towards the true origin. Lord Hailes, however, acknowledges that Walter, who flourished under David the First, and Malcolm the Fourth, was *indeed* the Stewart of Scotland. But the question of what family was this Walter remains unanswered. He is known to historians only as Walter, the son of Alan; no satisfactory account having yet been given, (if we except the respectable author and indefatigable scholar, on whose authority we rely in this narrative) of who this Alan was. This, however, appears to be the only clue to the discovery in question. If the genuine descent of Alan, the father of Walter, and the first of the Stewarts, can be ascertained, the great difficulty is surmounted. We are of opinion, therefore, that by laying before our readers the very satisfactory account of this family, given by Mr. Chalmers,‡ we shall render a service to genealogists, and considerably enrich our own work. I propose, says Mr. Chalmers, to show, from the most satisfactory evidence, that Walter, the son of Alan, came from Shropshire, in England; that he was the son of Alan, the son of Flaald, and the younger brother of William, the son of Alan, who was the progenitor of the famous house of Fitz-Alan, the Earls of Arundel. The great exploit of Walter, the son of Alan, was the founding of the monastery of Paisley, during the reign of Malcolm the Fourth, by transplanting a colony of Cluniac monks from the monastery of

* See his Appendix, No. VIII, *Annals*, Vol. I.—A dissertation on the origin of the House of Stewart.

† *Gen. Hist. Stewarts*, page 2.

‡ *Caledonia*; or, *An Account, historical and topographical, of North Britain*, Vol. I. p. 572—577.

of Wenlock, in Shropshire.* Such, then, was the connection of Walter, the first Stewart, with Shropshire, with Wenlock, with Isabel de Say, who married William, the brother of Walter. Alan, the son of Flaald, married the daughter of Warine, the famous sheriff of Shropshire, soon after the Norman conquest; and of this marriage William was the eldest son of Alan, and the undoubted heir, both of Alan and of Warine.† Alan, the son of Flaald, a Norman, acquired the manor of Oswestry, soon after the conquest.‡ Alan was undoubtedly a person of great

* See the foundation Charter, in the Chartulary of Paisley, which evinces his intimate connection with the monks of Wenlock: and see the Chartulary, No. I. VII. IX. CXXXVII. CXLII. In 1169, Humbald, the prior of Wenlock, held a convention at Paisley, for the purpose, no doubt, of giving a constitution and settlement to the monastery of Paisley.

Chron. Melros, p. 170; *Chart. Paisley*, No. II.

The greatest benefactor to the monks of Wenlock was Isabel de Say, Lady of Clune, the opulent and liberal wife of William, the elder brother of Walter, the son of Alan. *Dugdale's Monast.* Vol. I. p. 613.

This monastery of Wenlock was founded, or rather rebuilt and endowed, by Roger de Montgomery, the great Earl of Shrewsbury, of whom our readers have some account in a former part of this work.

See, too, *Dugdale's Monast.* and *Dug. Baron*, Vol. I. p. 27.

A younger son of this Roger followed Walter into Scotland, and obtained from him a grant of the manor of Eglesham, which, as the most ancient possession, is still enjoyed by the Earl of Eglinton. That William, the son of Alan, married the heiress of Clune, Isabel de Say, we know from *Dugdale's Baron*. Vol. I. p. 454. Clune descended to the Fitz-Alans, Earls of Arundel, as appears from the Escheat Rolls of the third of Henry the Fifth.

† *Dug. Monast.* Vol. I. 378—382. William, the son of Alan, confirmed his father's charters. *Dug. Monast.* Vol. II. p. 144.

In 1172, the 19th of Henry the Second, the honour of William, the son of Alan, was in the custody of the sheriff of Shropshire; William being then dead. *Madox. Excheq.* Vol. I. p. 297.

‡ *Dugd. Baronage*, Vol. I. p. 314.—*Lel. Col.* Vol. I. p. 231.—*Gough's Camden*, Vol. III. p. 8. Edition 1806.

great consequence, at the accession of Henry the First. He was a frequent witness to the king's charters, with other eminent personages of that splendid court.*

Mr. Chalmers next proceeds to prove the fraternal connection between William, the son of Alan, by a transaction, which had before been as new to history as it is singular in itself. We have already seen, that Oswestry, in Shropshire, was the original seat of Alan on the Welsh border. Clun, in the same county, was added to his family by the marriage of his son, William, who built Clun castle; and John Fitz-Alan, Lord of Clun and Oswestry, by marrying Isabel, the second sister of William de Albany, the third Earl of Arundel, who died in 1196, became Earl of Arundel, and changed his residence from Shropshire to Sussex.†

Now, Richard Fitz-Alan, the Earl of Arundel, being with Edward the Third, during the year 1335, and claiming *to be Stewart of Scotland by hereditary right*, sold his title and claim to Edward the Third, for a thousand marks,‡ which purchase he cautiously had confirmed to him by Edward Baliol; but

VOL. XIII.

O

Richard

* He was a witness to a charter of Henry the First, with Matilda, his queen, the daughter of Malcolm Cranmore, and other personages of the highest rank, dated the 18th of September, 1101; which charter was engraved from the autograph in the possession of Matthew Howard, the Lord of the Manor of Thorp, near Norwich, 1728. Alan subscribed this charter thus:

Ego Alanus Flaaldi filiº S.

Alan, the son of Flathald, witnessed another charter of Henry the First, at Canterbury. *Dug. Monast. Vol. I. p. 353.*

The same Alan witnessed a charter of William Peverel, to the church of St. Peter, in Shrewsbury. *Ibid. p. 382.*

It thus appears that Alan, the son of Flaald, lived under and with Henry the First.

† See Yorke's Union of Honour, p. 59. *Dug. Bar. Vol. I. p. 314, 315.* Escheat Rolls, 3d of Henry the Fifth.

‡ *Dug. Bar. Vol. I. p. 316,*^b which quotes the Clause Roll, 15th of Edward the Third, p. I. m. 49.

Richard Fitz-Alan had not any right to the Stewartship of Scotland: Walter, who was the first purchaser of this hereditary office, was the younger brother of William, the son of Alan, the progenitor of Richard Fitz-Alan, the claimant; and, till all the descendants of the first purchaser had failed, the claim could not ascend to the common father of the two families.* But Robert, the Stewart, who was born of Margery Bruce, on the 2d of March, 1315—16, and became King of Scots, on the 22d of February, 1370—1, under the entail of the crown, was then in possession of the hereditary office of Stewart, by lineal descent.†

Walter, the son of Alan, undoubtedly obtained from David the First, and from Malcolm the Fourth, great possessions, a high office, and extensive patronage.‡ And, it may be reasonably asked, by what influence he could acquire, from two kings, so much opulence and such an office? David the First was a strenuous supporter of the claims of his niece, the Empress Maud, in her severe contest with Stephen. William, the brother of Walter, influenced by the Earl of Gloucester, the bastard son of Henry the First, and the powerful partizans of his sister, the empress, seized Shrewsbury in September 1139,§ and

* The Escheat Rolls of the 3d of Henry the Fifth evince that Thomas, Earl of Arundel, who died without issue, possessed, among other vast estates, Oswestry, the original seat of Alan, the son of Flaald, and of Clun castle, the demesne of William, the son of Alan; so that there cannot be a doubt, since he died seised of those estates, whether the Fitz-Alans, the Earls of Arundel, were descended from Alan, the common progenitor of the Stewarts of Scotland, who were lineally descended from Walter, the son of Alan.

† See And. Stuart's *Gen. Hist. Stewarts*, p. 23. Crawford's *Hist. Stewarts*, p. 15. In 1334, Edward Baliol conferred on David Hastings, of Strathbogie, the Earl of Athol, the whole estates of the young Stewart of Scotland. *Stewart's Gen. Hist.* p. 31.

‡ Chart. of Paisley. Crawford's *Hist. Stewarts*. Lord Hailes's *Ant.* Vol. I. p. 362.

§ Vide ante, p. 54.

and held it for her interest.* He attended her, with King David, at the siege of Winchester, in 1141, where they were overpowered by the Londoners, and obliged to flee.† Such then, were the bonds of connection between David the First, and the sons of Alan, who were also patronized by the Earl of Gloucester. It was, probably, on that occasion, that Walter accompanied David into Scotland. William, the son of Alan, adhered steadily to the empress, and was rewarded by Henry the Second, for his attachment.‡ Thus Walter, the son of Alan, could not have had more powerful protectors, than the Earl of Gloucester with David the First, and Henry the Second with Malcolm the Fourth. When Walter, by those influences, obtained grants of Renfrew with other lands, and founded the monastery of Paisley for Cluniac monks from Wenlock, he was followed by several persons from Shropshire, whom he enriched, and by whom he was supported. He married Eschina, of Moll, in Roxburghshire, by whom he had a son Alan, who succeeded him in his estates and office,§ when he died, in 1177.|| Six descents carried this family, by lineal transmissions, to Robert, the Stewart, whose office, as we have already seen, was purchased by Edward the Third, and became King of Scots in 1371.¶ Walter, the son of Alan, was followed by his brother Simon, who was the progenitor of the family of Boyd,** according to the genealogists; but it is not

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necessary

* Ordericus Vitalis, p. 917. Dug. Bar. Vol. I. p. 314. Hume's Hist. Eng. Vol. I. p. 359. 8vo. edition 1782.

† Dugdale's Baronage, Vol. I. p. 314.

‡ Vide ante, p. 54, and Dug. Baron. Vol. I. p. 314.

§ Mr. Chalmers's argument implies that the office in this instance conferred the name.

|| Chron. Melros, p. 174. Crawford's Hist. Stewarts, p. 5.

¶ See the Genealogical Tree in Andrew Stewart's Gen. Hist. Crawford's Hist. Stewarts, p. 5—15.

** The Boyds have the same armorial bearing as the Stewarts.

Nisbet's Herald, Vol. I. p. 51. Stewart's Hist. p. 46.

necessary to trace this matter farther. Mr. Chalmers, both here and in his account of Renfrewshire, has treated, in the most satisfactory manner, the history of the Stewarts, whose blood, as he observes, ran in a thousand channels. A subject of so much importance, however dry and uninteresting such matters in general are, requires no apology to readers interested in the history of Salop.

Between the parish of Buildwas and Colebrook Dale, there is a place called THE BIRCHES, probably from some large birch trees which formerly grew there. This place is remarkable for having been the scene of an extraordinary concussion of the earth, which in its effects perfectly agrees with those occasioned by the earthquakes in Calabria, in 1783.*

This singularly awful event took place early on the morning of the 27th of May, 1773. It has been described by the late most excellent and eminently pious Mr. Fletcher, vicar of Madeley, in that style of devout eloquence which so perspicuously distinguishes the writings of the Author of the Checks to Antinomianism. We cannot, therefore, do better, in this instance, than give the account in Mr. Fletcher's own words :

Hearing on Thursday, May 27, 1773, that a place called the Birches, many acres of land, which a gentleman of my parish holds on the borders of Buildwas parish, had that morning about four o'clock suffered strange revolutions, as well as the river Severn, I went to see if there was any foundation for so extraordinary a report.

When I came to the spot, the first thing that struck me was the destruction of the little bridge, that separated the parish of Madeley from that of Buildwas, and the total disappearing of the turnpike road to Buildwas bridge, instead of which nothing presented itself to my view, but a confused heap

* See Sir William Hamilton's Account in the Philosophical Transactions, Vol. LXXIII, p. 117; and the Gent. Mag. Vol. LIII. p. 785; Gough's Camden, Vol. III. p. 29.

heap of bushes, and huge clods of earth, tumbled one over another. The river also wore a different aspect. It was shallow, turbid, noisy, boisterous; and came down from a different point. Whether I considered the water or the land, the scene appeared to me entirely new; and as I could not fancy myself in another part of the country, I concluded that the God of Nature had shaken his providential iron rod over the subverted spot before me.

Following a track made by a great number of spectators, who had come already from the neighbouring parishes, I climbed over the ruins and came to a field well grown with rye-grass, where the ground was deeply cracked in several places: and where some large turfs, some entirely, others half turned up, exhibited the appearance of straight or crooked furrows, imperfectly formed by a plough drawn at a venture.

Getting from that field over the hedge, into a part of the road, which was yet visible, I found it raised in one place, sunk in another, concave in a third, hanging on one side in a fourth, and contracted, as if some uncommon force had pressed the two hedges together. But the higher part of it surprised me most, and brought directly to my remembrance those places of Mount Vesuvius, where the solid, stony lava has been strongly worked by repeated earthquakes; for the hard, beaten gravel, that formed the surface of the road, was broken every way into huge masses, partly detached from each other, with deep apertures between them, exactly like the shattered lava. This striking likeness of circumstances made me conclude, that the similar effect might proceed from the same cause, namely, a strong convulsion in the surface, if not in the bowels of the earth.

Going a little farther towards Buildwas, I found that the road was again totally lost for a considerable space; having been overturned, absorbed, or tumbled, with the hedges that bounded it, to a considerable distance towards the river. This part of the desolation appeared then to me inexpressibly dreadful.

Between the road and the river, there was a large field of promising oats, running in length parallel to both. I got into it over a stile that had been shocked out of its proper position. Wonderful and unaccountable are the revolutions, which that piece of ground had suffered. It was not flat, but diversified in its surface by some gradual falls and eminences; and now I found it had been tossed in so strange a manner, that the old mounts had sunk into hollows, and the hollows were raised into mounts, one of which is eight or nine yards higher than the road.

This is not all; this field is rent throughout, like the shattered parts of the road; with this difference that the misshapen masses into which it is torn, are in general larger, and the apertures between them deeper than those of the road. Some of these enormous lumps were so detached from the rest, as to totter under the weight of the spectators, when they jumped from one to the other, which made several persons afraid to venture upon the desultory walk; nor indeed without reason, for had they slid into some of the apertures, they might have gone in many feet, and remained wedged in between two ruinous lumps of earth.

Between that shattered field and the river, there was, that morning, a bank, on which, besides a great deal of underwood, grew twenty fine large oaks. This wood shot with such violence into the Severn before it, that it forced the water in great columns a considerable height, like mighty fountains, and gave the overflowing river a retrograde motion.

This is not the only accident that happened to the Severn; for near the grove, the channel, which was chiefly of a soft blue rock, burst in ten thousand pieces, and rose perpendicularly about ten yards, heaving up the immense quantity of water, and the shoals of fishes that were therein. Among the rubbish at the bottom of the river which was very deep in that place, there were one or two huge stones, and a large piece of timber or an oak tree, which from time immemorial had lain partly in the mud, I suppose in consequence of some flood. The
stone

stone and the trees were thrown up, as they had only been a pebble and a stick, and are now at some distance from the river, many feet higher than the surface of it.

Ascending from the ruins of the road, I came to those of a barn, which, after travelling many yards towards the river, had been absorbed in a chasm, where the shattered roof was yet visible. Next to those remains of the barn, and partly parallel to the river, was a long hedge, which had been torn from a part of it yet adjoining to the garden hedge, and had been removed above forty yards downward, together with some large trees that were in it, and the land that it enclosed.

The tossing, tearing, and shifting of so many acres of land below, was attended with the formation of stupendous chasms above. One that struck me much, ran perpendicular to the river. Around it, as around a grave at a burial, stood, the day after, the numerous congregation to which an appropriate sermon was preached; except about two hundred hearers, who descended into it to be out of the crowd, and made me fear, lest the abrupt sides, pressed by the surrounding multitude, should give way and bury some of them alive; but the ground happily stood firm as a rock.

At some distance above, near the wood which crowns the desolated spot, another chasm, or rather a complication of chasms, excited my admiration. It is an assemblage of chasms, one of which, that seems to terminate the desolation to the north-east, runs some hundred yards towards the river and Madeley wood; it looked like the deep channel of some great serpentine river dried up, whose little islands, fords, and hollows, appear without a watery veil.

This long chasm at the top, seems to be made up of two or three, that run into each other. And their conjunction, when it is viewed from a particular point, exhibits the appearance of a ruined fortress, whose ramparts have been blown up by mines that have done dreadful execution, and yet have spared here and there a pyramid of earth or a shattered tower, by which

the spectators can judge of the nature and solidity of the demolished bulwark.

The strangeness of this and some other parts of the prospect vanishes daily; for many thousands of people, walking again and again over the ruins, have trampled in and partly closed numbers of the small apertures, that at first were several feet deep; and by climbing up the accessible places of the larger chasms, and ransacking them in search of fossils, they have caused the loose earth and stones to come down. Add to this, that the brittle stone, which in a great measure forms that stratum of earth, is of such a nature, as to dissolve into a kind of infertile marl, when it is exposed to the open air. This, together with the natural crumbling of the pyramids, has already rendered the chasms in some places, considerably less deep than they were at first.

Fortunately there was on that spot but one house, inhabited by two poor countrymen and their families. It stands yet, though it has removed about a yard from its former situation. The morning in which the desolation happened, Samuel Wilcocks, one of the countrymen, got up about four o'clock, and opening the window to see if the weather was fair, he took notice of a small crack in the earth, about four or five inches wide; and observed the above-mentioned field of oats, heaving up and rolling about like the waves of the sea. The trees, by the motion of the ground, waved also as if they had been blown with the wind, though the air was calm and serene. And the river Severn, which for some days had overflowed its banks, was also very much agitated, and seemed to run back to its source. The man, being astonished at such a sight, rubbed his eyes, supposing himself not quite awake; but being soon convinced that destruction stalked about, he alarmed his wife, and taking their children in their arms, they went out of the house as fast as they could, accompanied by the other man and his wife. A kind providence directed their flight; for instead of running eastward, across the fields that were just
going

going to be overthrown, they fled westward, into a wood that had little share in the desolation.*

When they were about twenty yards from the house, they perceived a great crack run very quick up the ground from the river. Immediately the land behind them, with the trees and hedges, moved towards the Severn with great swiftness and uncommon noise, which Samuel Wilcocks compared to a large flock of sheep running swiftly by him.

It was then chiefly that desolation expanded her wings over the devoted spot, and the Birches saw a momentary representation of a partial chaos:—Then Nature seemed to have forgotten her laws:—The opening earth swallowed a gliding barn:—Trees commenced itinerant; those that were at a distance from the river, advanced towards it, while the submerged oak broke out of its watery confinement, and by rising many feet recovered a place on dry land:—The solid road was swept away, as its dust had been in a stormy day:—Then probably the rocky bottom of the Severn emerged, pushing towards heaven astonished shoals of fishes, and hogsheads of water innumerable:—The wood, like an imbattled body of vegetable combatants, stormed the bed of the overflowing river; and triumphantly waved its green colours over the recoiling flood:—Fields became moveable: nay, they fled when none pursued; and as they fled, they rent the green carpets that covered them in a thousand pieces.—In a word, dry land exhibited the dreadful appearance of a sea-storm: solid earth, as if it had acquired the fluidity of water, tossed itself into massy waves, which rose or sunk at the beck of Him who raised the tempest.—And, what is most astonishing, the stupendous billow of one of those waves, ran for near a quarter of a mile through rocks and a stony soil, with as much ease as if dry earth, stones, and rocks, had been a part of the liquid element.

Some

* One of this poor man's children, it appears, was lame, and as he was carried across the field, on the shoulders of his affrighted parent, he exclaimed, "Run, father, run; for the barn, trees, and hedges, run faster than we!" See Mr. Fletcher's Sermon, p. 67.

Some hours after the desolation had happened, I met Samuel Wilcocks on the ruins, and asked him many questions, to which he returned very few satisfactory answers, ingenuously acknowledging, he was so terrified, and so intent upon securing himself and his family, that he could not make any observations.

Soon after the river was stopped, Samuel Cookson, a farmer, who lives about a quarter of a mile below the Birches, on the same side of the river, was much terrified by a gust of wind, that beat against his window, as if shot had been thrown against it: but his fright greatly increased when getting up to see if the flood, that was over his ground, had abated, he perceived that all the water was gone from his fields, and that scarce any remained in the Severn. He called up his family; ran to the river; and finding that it was dammed up, he made the best of his way to alarm the inhabitants of Buildwas, the next village above, which he supposed would soon be under water.

He was happily mistaken: Providence just prepared a way for their escape. The Severn, notwithstanding a considerable flood, which at that time rendered it doubly rapid and powerful, having met with two dreadful shocks, the one from her rising bed, and the other from the intruding wood, could do nothing but foam and turn back with impetuosity. The ascending and descending streams, conflicted some time about Buildwas-bridge. The river sensibly rose for some miles back, and continued rising, till, (just as it was near entering into the houses at Buildwas) it got vent through the fields on the right; and after spreading far and near over them, collected all its might to assault its powerful aggressor, I mean the grove, that had so unexpectedly turned it out of the bed, which it had enjoyed for countless ages. Sharp was the attack, but the resistance was yet more vigorous; and the Severn, repelled again and again, was obliged to seek its old empty bed, by going the shortest way to the right; and the moment it found it again, it precipitated therein with a dreadful roar, and for a time formed a considerable cataract: then with inconceivable fury (as if it
wanted

wanted to be revenged on the first thing that came in its way) it began to tear and wash away, a fine rich meadow opposite to the grove; and there, in a few hours, worked itself a new channel about 300 yards long, through which a barge from Shrewsbury ventured three or four days after.

Although the old English oaks and the travelling wood got the day, it was not without considerable loss; for some of the trees which stood in the first rank, were so undermined by the impetuous onsets of the Severn, that they fell across the stream. But the others stood their ground in the very middle of the old channel, and flourished as if they had been in their native place, till the proprietor ordered them to be cut down and barked.

While the underwood still grows there in peace, (such is the vicissitude of sublunary things!) an unfortunate tree that grew secure at a considerable distance from the shore in the opposite meadow, is now exactly in the middle of the river, where it leans downward, with the earth washed from its roots, ready to be carried away by the first flood.

But let us see what passed down the river. When its course was obstructed, the fall below was as quick as the flood above. Although the flooded fields, refunded their waters into the Severn, it fell near two yards. This draining of the overflowed meadows was so sudden, that many fishes which sported over them, had not time to retire into the bed of the river, and were caught on dry land; as were also several eels, that worked themselves from the obstructed channel, through the cracks, in the new-planted grove; or more probably crept out of the roots and rubbish, that were at the bottom of the river when it was forced up.

How fatal was that day to the finny tribes, that securely wantoned in their enlarged province: Those fishes that had got out of the river, were left panting on the grass, while those that had remained in the rocky bed of the river, were buried in its ruins; and if any escaped that danger, it was
only

only to meet a greater: to be caught in such a net, as had never been drawn over them before, an earthen and woody texture made with the spreading roots of twenty large oaks.

While some of the spectators picked eels and fishes on dry ground; others of different taste looked for curious fossils among the ruins of the rock, which in the morning formed the channel of the Severn; and a great many were found bearing the impression of a flying insect, not unlike the butterfly into which silk-worms are changed.

Although the astonished watermen were as busy in securing their vessels, as the frightened fishes in securing themselves, the endeavours of some were as ineffectual, a few of their barges having overset below; for when the river was dammed up, some of their loaded vessels being suddenly deserted by the water, were left leaning upon one side of the muddy slope of the shore; and the stream at its quick return, finding them in that unfavourable position, entered into and sunk them.

In less than a quarter of an hour, the desolation was begun and completed. The quantity of ground that is damaged, cracked, removed, or turned into chasms and heaps of ruins, is eight fields, which were at first supposed to contain about thirty acres, but measure only eighteen and a quarter, the property of the same gentleman, who has also sustained a considerable loss on the other side of the river, by the ground that has been washed away, which being taken into the account, together with the river, makes in all twenty-two acres and a quarter.

But much more land has probably been stirred: for some of the spectators seeking a shorter way home through a wood in Madeley parish, which bounds the desolated spot North-east, found, four or five hundred yards above the highest chasm, a long abrupt cut, which runs partly parallel to the river, by which it is evident, that the wood has sunk downward near a yard; and that the quantity of ground, double of what was
at

at first apprehended, has been affected by the general convulsion.

The following more detailed account of the chasms was added by a friend of Mr. Fletcher :

The great chasm next to Madeley parish, begins just under a wood, at the top of the overthrow ; and runs towards the river from the north to south-east. The length of it is three hundred and ninety-six yards. Its breadth and depth are unequal. The greatest breadth is forty-two yards, and the greatest depth ten. It contains several pyramids or towers. The only complete one is about five feet diameter at the top, where the grass continues fresh.

From that long chasm, another, which may be called a cross chasm, runs out at the top westward. In one part, it is fifty-four yards long, and fourteen wide. Near seventeen yards of the length are about thirteen yards deep.

A second cross-chasm connected with the preceding, and running also from east to west, is ninety-four yards long, and in one place thirty-eight broad, and eight deep. Four remarkable pyramids, eminences, or towers, remain in this chasm : one covered with grass, is about four feet diameter on the top ; another is only one ploughed-furrow wide at the top about four feet long ; the others are not complete.

A third cross-chasm, next to the dwelling-house, runs likewise from east to west. It is one hundred and twenty-five yards long. The widest part, opposite to the place where the barn stood, is twenty-eight yards. That building advanced thirty-five yards in this chasm towards the river before it was swallowed up.

From the middle of this chasm, another runs out towards the river from north to south, and forms the gigantic grave, around which the sermon was preached. It is forty yards long, twenty-two wide, and nine deep, taking the greatest depth, which gradually decreases southward, where the whole terminates in a point.

All these cross-chasms would make one uninterrupted vacancy, like that of a large quarry or marl-pit, were it not for the above-mentioned pyramids and towers, and for two smaller and two larger spots of land, which not only stood their ground when all around them gave way, but are supposed to have risen perpendicularly some feet. If the vacuum was filled with water, they would exhibit the appearance of four islands rising out of a little lake.

The bed of the river has been filled up two hundred and ninety yards in length. At the upper part of the new channel, there is, on the right shore, a quantity of earth removed from the left, with some wood growing upon it. And about the midway on the left shore, there is a part of the meadow, that was before on the right; and what is most surprising, that part is now raised near two feet above the rest of the meadow.

The turnpike road, which ran partly parallel to the river, is damaged three hundred and twenty-one yards in length. The part of it which is next to Buildwas, has been removed forty yards southward.—Thus far Mr. Fletcher's friend.

That all this was owing to an earthquake there can be no reasonable doubt. For the stony bed of the river, to the highest chasm, the soil, some feet below the surface, is exactly of the same rocky nature, as is evident, from the similar quality of the rocks shattered under the river, and those which have been rent at the formation of the chasms; and from the very same kind of fossils, which are found in the ruins of both. It is absurd to suppose that the stratum of slippery earth, which forms the surface of the field of oats, could by slipping have rent the rock that bore it, and occasioned so amazing an overthrow. If the weight of the rising ground could cause such a desolation, Madeley-wood (on the same side of the river, and equally washed by it) would have slipped much sooner than the Birches, as having a far greater pressure, and being much steeper, undermined by coal-pits, embowelled
by

by the stone-pits, and every where very subject to little slips, accidents from which the Birches have always been remarkably free.

Among the spots of ground, which have been forced up, there are four under the wood, which have been raised some feet. Now, as those spots are quite at the top of the over-throw, they could not be pressed upwards by the weight of the lower ground. Besides, large chasms being before and behind them, it cannot be conceived, how they could have been raised by pressure; as it is impossible that huge masses of dry earth and solid rock, should be forced up by being pressed between a double vacuum.

Moreover, if it were a slip, occasioned by the left bank of the river giving way to the pressure of the high ground, all the land would have moved one way, namely, from the wood to the river; but it has moved in every direction; many hundred, not to say, thousand tons of earth, have gone east towards Madeley-wood: witness the bridge that is buried east, and the brook that is bounded north-east. A great deal is gone west also: witness many of the cracks towards Buildwas bridge, and many masses of earth which hang west. Although it is evident, that the grand motion has been southward, yet the remaining part of the road, and the stile in the field of oats to this day,* hang remarkably north. And although most of the cracks run parallel to the river, not a few run perpendicular to it; and among these, a remarkable chasm which could not be formed, but by the ground moving east or west, and not towards the river. This appears likewise by part of a ploughed field, which has been torn from the rest, and carried several yards, to the south-west, as the direction of the furrows eminently demonstrates.

From these observations we may conclude, that it was an earthquake, accompanied by a considerable eruption of air: and

* This account is dated July 6, of the same year.

and this appears from the sudden gust of wind, that shook Samuel Cookson's windows, and affected a yew-tree, which seems to have been blasted, as well as two young trees, whose leaves have also turned yellow. They stand at the end of the long chasm, just in the way from it to the house where the sudden blast terrified the farmer, at the time of the desolation.

This sentiment is confirmed, not only by the accident of a house at Buildwas, which unaccountably moved, cracked in several places, and partly sunk in, two days before; but by another singular earthquake that was, it seems, both felt and heard a little after at Hennington in Shiffnal parish: though the earth did not open there, as it did at the Birches.

It seems the matter, which was the second cause of the phenomenon, operated near the surface of the earth, and consequently could not cause those violent shocks and convulsions, which are felt far and near, when she is affected in her inmost bowels.

Perhaps also the confined matter, that struggled for a vent, finding one *soon*, and working itself out *gradually* when it had found it, at once caused the earthquake to last longer upon the desolated spot, and prevented its being felt at a greater distance.*

The effects of this extraordinary convulsion were also felt at some distance from the Birches. At a house on a high bank, near the Severn, above Buildwas Brook, more than a mile and a half from the Birches, a considerable shock was felt in the night, between the 25th and the 26th; and the house, out-buildings,

* See "A dreadful phenomenon described and improved: being a particular account of the sudden stoppage of the river Severn, and of the terrible desolation that happened at the Birches, between Coalbrook Dale and Buildwas Bridge, in Shropshire, on Thursday morning, May 27th, 1773. And the substance of a sermon preached the next day on the ruins to a vast concourse of spectators. By John Fletcher, vicar of Madeley, in Shropshire, and chaplain to the Right Hon. the Earl of Buchan."

buildings, yard, court, and road, continued in motion all that day; the ground opening and closing alternately; but many of the openings remained unclosed, extending to the edge of the banks near the Severn, parallel thereto. This house was at last shaken down. The upper tree of a pump was, by the violent agitation of the earth, heaved out of its socket, and thrown down; but the brick-work round the well remained undisturbed.

May 28th, about ten at night, a house called Adney Farm, a mile from The Birches, was violently shaken. The watermen affirmed that the water fell six feet in six minutes at Bridgenorth, which is twelve miles distant; and the shock was felt very severely at Newport, which is fourteen. It was also felt in the collieries in Coalbrook Dale.*

We will conclude our account of this stupendous instance of the divine Omnipotency by the following just and eloquent description of its effects on the Severn: "But leaving the newly formed mounts, through heaps of ruins, go to the ancient bank of the Severn. You come to it, and she is gone! You are in the middle of her old bed; nay, you cross it before you suspect that you have reached her shore: you stand in the deepest part of her channel, and yet you are in a wood! Large oaks spread their branches where barge-men unfurled their sails:—you walk to-day on solid ground where fishes yesterday swam in twenty feet of water. A rock that formed the bottom of the river, has mounted up as a cork and gained a dry place on the bank, while a travelling grove has planted itself in the waters, and a fugitive river has invaded dry land."†

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BRIDGE-

* Concise account of it, with a plan, by George Young. Gough's *Additions to Camden*, III. 29. There is a chronological mistake in Mr. Gough's Account:—The "tremulous motion of the earth," was not felt at The Birches, "in the dead of the night, between the 25th and 26th;" but about four o'clock, on the morning of the 27th. Mr. Gough does not appear carefully to have read the "fuller account by Mr. Fletcher," to which he refers.

† Sermon, p. 53. We should not envy the taste or the views of those who

BRIDGENORTH,

is seated upon the river Severn in the south-east part of this county. The river divides it into two parts, the higher and lower town, which are joined by a bridge. The higher town stands upon a hill, encompassed by a deep valley which is bounded by rising hills, it is by much the largest and contains the high street, which is long and wide, and would appear better if the view were not spoiled by the market-house, which stands in the middle of it; the *Raven*, *Ligsley* and *Hurgril*, and the two castle streets, and the cart way which leads from the bridge. The lower town contains only two streets, and is on the east of the river, as the high town is on the west.

The situation of Bridgenorth is said by travellers to resemble that of the Old Jerusalem. There are two churches in the high town; the high church, dedicated to St. Leonard, consists of a nave, a chancel, and two side aisles, with a tower-steeple at the west end. The low church stands near the site of the castle, and is dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene. It was originally a chapel within the castle walls. It was begun, says Bishop Tanner, by the father of Robert de Belesme, and was finished by Robert himself. Till the dissolution it was accounted a royal free chapel. In 1578 it was granted to Sir Christopher Hatton, having been made a collegiate church for a dean and six prebendaries. It was taken down and handsomely rebuilt, in 1796, from a design by Mr. Telford. The original building was a mean structure, low, without a clere-story, having a plain square tower at the west end. The choir, which was little better than the humble chancel of a common parish church, was filled up with stalls, and had
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who, from a dislike of Mr. Fletcher's Methodism, could peruse this impressive address, without feeling the cogency of his arguments, or the virtuous influence of his eloquence. The text was from Numb. chap. xvi ver. 30—34.

a very handsome Grecian altar-piece, which now, with more propriety, adorns the east end of the new church. It is a curacy in the gift of Thomas Whitmore, of Apley, Esq. and still retains a peculiar jurisdiction. The town, consisting of these two parishes, St. Leonard and St. Mary Magdalene, contains 910 houses and 4319 inhabitants, of whom 3809 were returned as being employed in trade and manufactures, viz. cloth, stockings, and iron tools, besides all handicrafts in common with other towns in England. The streets are paved with pebbles, and the houses are well built, particularly Mill-street, so called from its leading to the town mills parallel to the river on the west side. It is a place of great trade both by land and water. The air is healthy, and the prospect most delightful. The hill, on which the upper part of the town stands, (in the parish of St. Leonard) rises sixty yards from the bed of the river; many of the houses are founded upon the rock, and most of the cellars are caves hewn out of it. On the roof of the caves are gardens, with foot-paths over them, so that persons may walk over the tops of several of the houses without danger or difficulty. The town is well supplied with water, not only from an extensive spring, half a mile off, by pipes, but also from the Severn; it being thrown to the top of Castle-hill by a water-engine, whence the houses are supplied. There is a curious walk made from the high part of the town to the bridge, being a hollow way hewn twenty feet through the depth of the rock; and although the descent is very great, it is made easy by steps and rails. The town is governed by two bailiffs, elected out of twenty-four aldermen, who must have gone through all the offices of the town; by a jury of fourteen, together with forty-eight common-council men, a recorder, town clerk, &c. It sends two members to parliament; at present Thomas Whitmore, of Apley-Park, Esq. and Isaac Hawkins Browne, of Badger, Esq. D.C.L. and F.R.S. who is also one of the trustees of the Hunterian Museum. The pre-

sent is the first parliament in which either of these gentlemen have been returned for this borough. The corporation has many ancient privileges, granted by various charters, with a free-school for the sons of the burgesses. Its market, on Saturday, is well stocked with all kinds of provisions, and here are four fairs: Thursday before Shrove-Sunday, June 30, August 2, and October 29, resorted to from most parts of the kingdom, for cattle, sheep, butter, cheese, bacon, &c. the latter fair continues three days. Here are meeting-houses for the three branches of protestant dissenters: the Presbyterians, Baptists, and Independents. The Wesleyans have also their places of worship in this town, as well as the Quakers, and some others.

Charles the First said he esteemed this the most pleasant place in all his dominions. On the west side of the river stood an old priory, subsequently converted into an alehouse. It was founded by John Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, for grey friars of St. Francis. There were also two hospitals in the town, one called St. John's, the other St. James's.

This venerable town is of Saxon origin, having been built by Ethelfleda,* daughter of the Great Alfred, sister of the valorous Edward the Elder, and widow of Ethelbert Earl of Mercia. Leland says, "the name of Bridgenorth is but of late tymes usurped," that "in all antient records it is called Bridge."

* Henry of Huntingdon wrote the following verses in praise of Ethelfleda:—

O Elfreda potens, O terror virgo virorum!

Victrix naturæ, nomine digna viri!

Te, quò splendidior fores, natura puellam,

Te probitus fecit nomen habere viri.

Te mutare decet sed solum nomina sexûs

Tu regina potens, rexque trophea parans,

Tum nec Cæsarei tantum meruere triumphî,

Cæsare spendidior virgo, virago, vale!

Bridge.”* Bishop Gibson supposes this to be the *Ghatbrigge* of the Saxon Chronicle, where the Danes built a castle in the year 896; and some historians, probably under the same idea, call it *Brugge*. This Saxon derivation is strengthened by the circumstance of *Quat* and *Quatford*, being within a mile or two of the town. It may, however, have derived its present name from its bridge over the Severn. In a charter, during the reign of King John, it is called *Bruges*; in another of Edward the Third, *Brugg* and *Bruggnorth*; and in a third, under Charles the First, *Bridgenorth*, alias *Bruggnorth*, alias *Bruges*:—both *Brugg* and *Bruges* signify bridges, and the termination *North* seems clearly to have been added in relation to its situation,† though Leland, Camden, and some others, have this termination from *Morfe*, a forest once in the neighbourhood, which word may have been corrupted into that of *north*, and the word *burg*, a fortification, into that of *bridge*; but this etymology appears somewhat doubtful, and should not be too readily adopted, especially as a more simple and natural one is found in the two words composing its present name, and both of them easily deducible from obvious circumstances.

In the year 1102, during the revolt of the barons against Henry the First, in favour of the just claims of Robert of Normandy, Robert (Roger?) de Belesme, Earl of Shrewsbury, considerably strengthened this place,‡ and its castle; and for some time defended them against the attacks of Henry; but the town was at length compelled to capitulate, and Earl Robert, having his estates confiscated, was permitted to retire into Normandy, where, in conjunction with the Earl of Mortaigne, he joined the reviving interests of the humane and indolent Robert of Normandy, whose cause, however, in the moment of apparent

P 3

victory

* Speed, in a marginal note, p. 501, of his *History*, says that in ancient records it is called *Bruge*.

† *Phil. Trans.* No. CCCCLXIV. p. 127.

‡ Camden says he walled it round.

victory he basely deserted by flight,* and thereby effectually ruined the affairs of his employer, and occasioned the final reduction of Normandy.

During the siege above-mentioned Sir Ralph de Pitchford, one of the king's commanders, behaved himself so gallantly, that Henry gave him an estate in the neighbourhood called the Little Brugge, now called the Low Town, to hold, on condition of finding dry wood for the king's great chamber in the castle, as often as he should come there,† and also of finding a horseman with his furniture (*habergerium*) in Wales, to be paid by the king, which, it was held, at the assizes in 1291, the lord might perform,‡ the dry wood being supplied by the tenants of the Pitchfords.

This town remained in the undisturbed possession of the crown, till, in 1156-7,§ it was once more besieged by Henry the Second, who, finding it necessary to curb the rebellious insolence of Hugh de Mortimer|| who presumed to hold the castle against the authority of its royal owner, marched thither in person, and succeeded in reducing the traitors to submission.¶

At

* H. Hunt. p. 379. Mat. Paris, p. 43. Brompton, p. 1002.

† Camden Lib. Inq. Grose's Antiquities.

‡ Lloyd's MS.

§ Not, we presume, in 1165 as Grose writes, probably from Stowe. Vide Grafton and Speed.

|| Camden says, *Roger Mortimer*; but this appears to be a mistake. See Grafton Chron. Vol. I. p. 195, 4to. edition, 1810. and Speed Hist. p. 501.

¶ Grafton says, "The same yere [1157] Hugh Mortimer, a very prowde and hawtie man, fortified dyvers townes and holdes against the king, as G'locester, Worcester, and the Castle of Bridgenorth. And when he sawe the king's power bent against him, he humbly submitted himselfe, and had his pardon." *Chronicle, ubi supra*.

Speed speaks of Mortimer's defeat under the year 1155. He cites Matthew Paris.

At this siege an instance is recorded to have occurred of one of the most romantic acts of loyalty and self-devotion ever known: Sir Robert Synclare, or Hubert de St. Clare, governor of Colchester castle, seeing one of the enemy taking aim at his sovereign, stepped before him and received the arrow in his own breast, thereby saving the king's life at the expence of his own!* In that great day when actions come "to be weighed," will this deed be accounted an instance of dutiful loyalty, or a rash and presumptuous *felo de se*? However this may turn out, the claims of Hubert's family on the gratitude of Henry were very great, and he discharged them by taking his slaughtered friend's daughter into his immediate protection, and afterwards providing for her by an advantageous marriage.

In 1225, Henry de Aldetheley, or Audley, was appointed constable, and it appears from Madox's History of the Exchequer, that in 1255 the castle was committed to the government of Hugh d'Akor, together with those of Salop and Stafford, during the king's pleasure. Hugh was to render 126l. per annum for the *proficium* of the counties, and was to keep the castles at his own cost.

In 1386, Lord Badlesmere was constituted governor of Bridgenorth castle, and had lands in the town; but the manor remained in the crown, till John Sutton, Lord Dudley, in 1483, obtained a grant of it for himself and his heirs male; but the

P 4

weakness

Owen Salesbury Brereton, Esq. in his Observations in a Tour through South Wales, Shropshire, &c. read at the Society of Antiquaries in 1772, and printed in the Archæologia, Vol. III. says, that at this siege which he dates in 1170, "Henry the Second razed the castle to the ground;" and adds, that he supposes "it was soon rebuilt; for in 1215, John, son of Ralph d'Abeney, appears to have been governor." In the history of this castle there is great confusion of dates and names. Some read Philip d'Aubiney, and 1216.

* Speed Hist. p. 501. Powel, as cited by Speed, says, it was a Welshman who shot the arrow at the king.

weakness and extravagance of his son laying him open to the tricks of usurers, it was afterwards lost to the family.

In former times, as appears from the Shrewsbury corporation records, the county assizes were occasionally held at this place.

Nothing of historical importance seems to have taken place with respect to this town, till the time of the great and unnatural dissensions between King Charles the First and his parliament about the middle of the sixteenth century, when Bridgenorth espoused the cause of the unhappy monarch, and was taken by the parliament forces. After the town had been thus surprised, the governor, perceiving the victorious party made approaches towards the castle under cover of the houses, set the town on fire, by which the greatest part of it was consumed, together with the church of St. Leonard. The castle was at length taken and nearly demolished. The siege lasted a whole month. A mount, south of the castle, called the Old Castle, is said to have been raised as a battery; but some think it is the remains of a Roman camp.* The church of St. Mary Magdalene was the magazine for the garrisons of the castle.†

At the time this town was visited by Grose, nothing was left standing of the castle, but what seemed to be part of a tower, which, by undermining, was made to incline so much that it appeared to threaten destruction to such as approached it. It made nearly an angle of seventy-three degrees with the horizon, or seventeen from the perpendicular. This extraordinary position it still maintains: such is the strength of the masonry, and the depth of the foundation! It is not known by whom, nor at what time, this castle was built: it can hardly be the one mentioned in the Saxon Chronicle before alluded to. Leland gives the following account of its state in his time:

“The castle standeth on the south part of the towne, and is fortified by east with the profound valley instead of a ditch; the

* Gough's Camden.

† Gent. Mag. 1764, p. 263.

the walls of it be of a great height; there were two or three strong wardes in the castle that now goe totally to ruine. I count the castle to be more in compasse than the third part of the towne.

“ There is one mighty gate by north in it now stopped up, and a little pasture made of force thereby through the wall to enter into the castle. The castle ground, and especially the base court, hath now many dwelling houses of tymbre in it newly erected.

“ There is a college church of St. Mary Magdalene, of a dean and six prebendaries within the castle; the church itself is now a rude thinge. It was first made by Robert de Belesmo for a chappell onely for the castle, and he endowed it with landes; and upon that this chappell was established in the castle, there was a like foundation made at Quateford, a chappell of St. Mary Magdalene, by Robert de Belesmo, Earl of Schrobesbury, at the desire of his wife, that made vow thereof in the tempest of the sea.”*

In the neighbourhood of Bridgenorth, about a mile and a half to the south east, are the united parishes of QUATFORD and ERDINGTON, containing but few houses. In Leland's time were to be seen the ruins of the manor-place of Robert de Montgomery, who first founded the church of St. Mary Magdalene. In 1763, on rebuilding the church of QUAT, a village about one mile farther in the same hundred of Stoddesdon, were found a number of figures painted on the walls, representing the Seven Charities and the Day of Judgment; and, on a piece of vellum nailed to an oak board, the figure of our Saviour rising from the sepulchre. Under the figure were the following lines :

“ Saynt Gregory and other popes
and byschops grantes sex and
twenty thousand zere of pardonz,
thritti dayes to alle that saies devou-
telye knelyng afor y^{is} is ymage fife
paternosters, fyfe aves, & a Cred.

Over

* Itin. IV. 182. b.

Over his head,

ihs is my lorde & lyff.*

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Mr. Brereton shewed the society of antiquaries, 1776, a sword found in the Severn by this place, the only ford on that river for several miles, and supposed the only sword of the sort yet found in Great Britain, the metal agreeing with those found in Ireland, engraved in the *Archæologia*,† and with those brought by Sir William Hamilton from Cannæ; but the size and shape different, this being from end to end, including the gripe, and allowing for a piece of the point broken off, twenty-one inches long, and one inch six-tenths in the broadest part.

MORFE, near Quatford, was in Leland's time‡ “a hilly ground, well wooded; a forest or chace having deer.” It has not at present a single tree. It had its forester and steward from the time of Edward the First to Elizabeth.§ In it King Athelstan's brother was said to have led an hermit's life in a rock. The place is still called the Hermitage, and is a cave in the rock.|| On Morfe are five tumuli in quincunx. In the middlemost, at about nine yards over in the depth of one foot to the solid rock, was found only an iron shell of the size of a small egg and supposed the boss of a sword, and, in a hollow in the gravel, some of the larger vertebræ and other human bones, as in the other tumuli.¶

A few miles northward from hence stood the very ancient mansion of one of the oldest families in England, the *Gatacres* of *Gatacre*; the walls of which were remarkable on account of their being built of a dark grey free-stone coated with a thin,

* Gough Add. Cam. Vol. III. p. 19.

† Vol. III. Pl. XIX.

‡ It. Vol. IV. p. 182.

§ Lloyd's MS.

|| Leland, *ubi supra*.

¶ Mr. Cornes, in *Phil. Transactions*, No. CCCCLXIV. p. 127.

thin, greenish, vitrified substance, about the thickness of a crown-piece, without the least appearance of any joint or cement to unite the several parts of the building, so that it seemed one entire piece; a most effectual preservative against bad weather. The hall was nearly an exact square, singularly constructed. At each corner, and in the middle of each side, and in the centre, were immense oak trees hewed nearly square, and without branches, set with their heads on large stones, laid about a foot deep in the ground, and with their roots uppermost, which roots, with a few rafters, formed a complete arched roof. The floor was of oak boards three inches thick, not sawed but plainly chipped. The whole is now pulled down, and a new house built at a little distance.*

About four miles eastward from Quatford, is a Roman camp, called THE WALLS. The form of it is nearest to a square. There have been four gates or entrances into it: one in the middle of the north front from CHESTERTON, a small village, another in the middle of the west, a third in the south-east, and a fourth in the north-east corner. The odd position of the two last take advantage of declivities in the rock, the whole face of which is every where, except on the north-east, a precipice of fifty or sixty yards perpendicular. On the east side a passage leads down to a rivulet below called *Stratford*.—Beside these a sloping way is cut through the bank, and down the rock in the middle of the south face, to the water, which surrounds part of the west, all the south and east, and part of the north sides of the camp, rendering it strong and inaccessible. The west side has been doubly fortified with a deep trench cut out of the solid rock between two ramparts. To the north it has only one bank, of the height of the innermost on the west. Its outer bank may have been levelled for the farm buildings,
at

* *Archæologia, ubi supra.*

at Chesterton. More than twenty acres are inclosed and ploughed within The Walls. No coins or antiquities have been found there. It was probably æstiva to Uriconium and Penno-crucium, which are within a day's march from it.* A camp in Wilts bears the same name.†

In coming to Bridgenorth, a few acres out of the road, is one of the finest terraces perhaps in Europe. It is above a mile in length and stands very high; it is wide enough to admit six carriages a-breast, and is entirely open. On one side it commands a view of the river Severn for some miles, and the stupendous hanging rocks over it down to Bridgenorth bridge at the east end, with many of the rising mountains on the south side of that river; on the other side the whole country is open to it to a vast distance, with the Wrekin about fifteen miles off, bounding the view at the west end. It is part of the airing pleasure-ground of Thomas Whitmore, of Apley, Esq.‡

On the northern banks of the placid *Teme*, which here quits Shropshire, rise the bold and commanding CLEE HILLS, or rather, to use the words of Leland,§ “Temde River dividith them from some parts of Worcestershire.”|| They are reckoned amongst the highest hills in the county,¶ and are seen in a circumference of sixty miles, even from Bardon Hill near Leicester; yet Camden calls them “gentle hills.”

CLEOBURY MORTIMER, which, in Leland's time was a poor village,** is now a parish and market town, and contained, at the census in 1801, three hundred and nineteen houses,

* R. Gale's Letter to Dr. Harwood, Sept. 17, 1719. Reliq. Galeanæ, p. 123.

† Gough.

‡ Archæologia, *ubi supra*.

§ Itin. Vol. VIII. p. 89.

|| Our learned Antiquary should have said, part of *Herefordshire*.

¶ Vide ante, p. 30.

** Itin. Vol. VII. p. 24.

houses, and one thousand three hundred and sixty-eight inhabitants. It has a market on Thursdays, and three annual fairs. It is called Cleobury Mortimer from its having formerly belonged to the noble family of Mortimer. It consists of one large street, and has a neat church of Gothic architecture,* which

* It is much to be wished, that the word Gothic should not be used in speaking of the architecture of England from the thirteenth to the sixteenth century. The term tends to give false ideas on the subject, and originates with the Italian writers of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, who applied the expression of "*La Maniera Gotica*" in contempt, to all the works of art in the middle ages. From these writers it was borrowed by Sir Christopher Wren, the first English writer, who has applied it to English architecture. There is very little doubt that the light and elegant style of building, whose principal and characteristic feature is the high-pointed arch struck from two centres, was invented in this country: it is certain that it was here brought to its highest state of perfection; and the testimonies of other countries, whose national traditions ascribe their most beautiful churches to English artists, add great weight to this assertion, and peculiar propriety to the term *English*, now proposed to be substituted to the word *Gothic*.

The architecture used by the Saxons is very properly called Saxon. The improvements introduced after the Norman conquest justify the application of Norman to the edifices of that period. The nation assumed a new character about the time of Henry the Second. The language, properly called English, was then formed; and an architecture, founded on the Norman and Saxon, but extremely different from both, was invented by English artists; it is surely equally just and proper to distinguish this style by the honourable appellation of English.

See note in the account of Durham cathedral which accompanies the plans, &c. of that structure published by the Antiquarian Society. See also, *Essays on Gothic Architecture*, Preface to the third edition, published by Taylor, 1808, where the reader will find (Preface, pp. 7, 8.) some farther remarks on this subject.

The propriety of this proposed alteration in the architectural nomenclature must, we should conceive, appear obvious to every one; but some danger of confusion to future readers and historians is sure to be the result of all such apparent innovations, however just they may be in themselves. The elegant and judicious Mr. Roscoe, the reviver of Italian literature and taste, has exemplified the utility of preserving the original orthography of proper

which formerly belonged to one of the mitred abbeys. There was at one time a strong castle at this place, built by Hugh de Montgomery, which was totally destroyed in the wars between the rebellious barons and Henry the Second.

The chancel in Cleobury church is somewhat curious. It contains a monumental inscription of the Rev. William Edwards, the vicar, who died in 1738, more remarkable for the strain of filial piety with which it is fraught, than either elegance of workmanship or neatness of expression. It is as follows :

“ The Rev. Mr. William Edwards, late vicar of this church, departed this life February 16, 1738, aged 77.

The ritual stone thy son doth lay
O'er thy respected dust,
Only proclaims the mournful day
When he a parent lost.

Fame will convey thy virtues down,
Through ages yet to come ;
'Tis needless, since so well they're known,
To crowd them on thy tomb.

Deep to engrave them on my heart
Rather demands my care ;
Ah! could I stamp in every part
The fair impression there !

In life to copy thee I'll strive ;
And when I that resign,
May some good-natur'd friend survive,
'To lay my bones by thine.”

On

proper names ; and if this method had always been used, much ambiguity would have been avoided, and many absurd mistakes prevented. In this instance, however, of the inappropriate use of the word *Gothic*, the substitution of the term *English* ought rather to be considered as an instance of reformation than of innovation.

On the north side is a free-school, founded by Sir Edward Childe, one of the masters in chancery, who left three thousand five hundred pounds for its support, besides a liberal salary to the master.

Near the school, a little to the east, are supposed to be the remains of a Danish camp; but its history is unknown.

This place is generally thought to have been the birth-place of Robert Langland, otherwise John Malverne, author of the "Visions of Pierce Plowman," that very severe satire on the clergy of the fourteenth century.

KINLET, a parish in this neighbourhood, was once famous as the residence of the family of the *Blounts*, from which have descended persons illustrious by almost all the titles of honour which a nation can boast, allied more than once by marriage with the royal family, and employed in the first offices of the state almost in every reign since the conquest.*

They were originally Normans, and are supposed to have derived their name, *le Blound*, from their having yellow hair. † This place is now the property of William Childe, Esq. ‡ The parish, at the last census, contained eighty-five houses, and six hundred and two inhabitants. In the church, which is cruciform, handsome, and ancient, having a nave with Saxon or early Norman round arches, are superb monuments of the family of Blount, of the reign of Henry the Seventh and Eighth.

Before we finally take leave of this part of the district south-east of Shrewsbury, it is proper to notice some sepulchral remains that have lately been discovered at a place called BURCOTT, in the parish of WORFIELD, about two miles and a half from Bridgenorth.

In the latter part of the month of April, and the beginning of May 1809, Mr. John Bell Hardwicke, having occasion to remove

* Vide the Biog. Brit.

† Camden, in Shrop.

‡ Gough's Add. Camd. Vol. III. p. 19.

remove a great mass of accumulated soil from the base of an irregularly-terminating rock and the precipice above it, over his meadow-ground adjoining, on May the 9th his workmen found the remains of a large semicircular cave, in which were discovered many human bones, particularly the vertebræ, two finger-bones, a leg-bone, the arm-bone which connects itself with the shoulder, and several ribs, scattered about in various directions. At the north end of the interior of the cave, about five feet from the level of the ground, on the ledge of the rock eighteen inches wide, were found two human skulls near each other deposited side-ways, and the scalp-bone of a child; also the skull and jaw-bones of a dog, the lower jaw-bone of another dog, and those of a sheep and a pig, and one of some small animal, which likewise lay in the same position at a short distance from each other. In the latter were many teeth, but not so sound as those of the human skulls. Many other bones of animals were also discovered, among which were the shanks of deer. Some of these bones had been broken to pieces, probably previous to their having been deposited in the earth. At the same time was discovered a hearth, with an appearance of ashes reduced to an extremely fine powder, with a few scraps of charcoal lying about, apparently produced from oak. Two small fire-flints were also found. The human skulls and other bones, with some of the bones of the animals, were completely immured in a kind of chalky substance, which ran perpendicularly through a chink or cleft in the rock, in a narrow stratum: the skulls were filled with it; and such of the bones as it surrounded were in a state of good preservation: the roof-bone of the mouth and the teeth in these human heads were sound, and the enamel of the teeth but very little injured: the teeth themselves appeared to be all complete, except two or three in the front. The upper jaw of the first skull found, with the roof-bone, were accidentally broken off and destroyed, by the mattock used by the person at their discovery. This skull,

skull, having been covered in part with common earth and chalk, was not quite so perfect as the other.

On the following day, Mr. Hardwick, after having had the whole space within the cave cleared out, discovered another human skull, lying on its side, upon the ledge of the rock at the inner extremity of the cave, about the same distance from the ground as the others. It appeared as if it had been violently forced into the rock, and being also incrustated with chalk, was in a high state of preservation. Within this skull were many small snail-shells, and a quantity of the chalky substance. The teeth were almost round and perfect, with the exception of two in the front. The wise-teeth were just approaching above the jaw-bone, considerably lower than the others, by which it appears this must have been a young person; the palate was also so well preserved, that the little irregularities therein were clearly to be seen of a bright or polished surface. It is remarkable that no part of the lower jaw-bone of the human subject was discovered in any part of the cave.*

These discoveries have, of course, given birth to a variety of conjectures. Some have supposed this cave, which faces the eastern sun, and is thirty feet in front from south to north, and from the entrance to the farthest part of the interior, twelve feet, to have been a place of druidical worship and sacrifice, used for sacred purposes soon after the introduction of christianity into these parts, when the rites of paganism were driven, in their turn, to seek the protection of subterraneous caverns and hidden recesses. Others, with far greater probability, suppose this place to have been a Saxon cottage, demolished by a sudden convulsion of the rock, and downfall of the soil above it.

The ancient proper name of *Bourncote*, which in the Saxon language means the cote or dwelling near to the river, of which this cave is within a few paces, serves to shew the probability

* See The County Annual Register, Vol. I. pp. 137, 138.

of this having been the cote or dwelling, which may have given rise to the word *Burcott*, the present name of the township.

It is also presumed, that these may have been the bones of some woodcutters, who, with their families, made this cave the place of their occasional residence. If this latter conjecture be correct, the demolition of the cave must have happened at a very remote period; seeing, that as early as the year 1592, the family of *Sadler* had a residence at this place. In this ancient house several traditions have been preserved, tending to shew that the place was inhabited by more families than one, long before the reign of Elizabeth. It appears reasonable to suppose that this event took place at a time when no one resided on the spot, except the few unfortunate persons who were then destroyed.

There is another conjecture as probable as any of the former, that this cave was the resort of banditti, who are reported to have infested these parts in former times.

We now return, in a south-westerly direction, to notice the venerable and romantic town of

LUDLOW,

called by the British, *Dinan Llys Tywysog*, or the Prince's Palace; and by the beauty of its situation and prospects well deserving that appellation. It stands on an eminence at the junction of the Teme and Corve, in a fertile and picturesque district on the southern border of the county. It is about a mile in length, and in the broadest part more than half a mile in breadth. Most of the streets are wide and well paved, lying in diverging and inclined directions from the highest and central part of the town; a circumstance which adds greatly to their cleanliness. The houses in general are neat, well built, and regularly disposed. The superiority of Ludlow in this respect to most inland towns of the same antiquity may be ascribed

ascribed to the peculiarity of its origin. The court held in its castle drew thither a concourse of the higher orders of society, who, in the erection of dwellings for their occasional occupation, consulted elegance and order as well as convenience. In after ages, when that splendid distinction was abolished, the pleasant and healthy situation of the place attracted many families of independent fortune, so that in the gradual change, from ancient to modern structure, its original beauty has not been impaired. It is still a favourite though not a very fashionable resort, being considered as a spot rather for retirement than for gaiety, and on this account extremely appropriate to literary pursuits.

The ancient history of the town is of course so much involved in that of the castle, that to relate the one will suffice for the other. This edifice, now a desolate ruin, stands at the north-west angle of the town on a bold wooded rock, at the foot of which runs the river. It was founded, according to generally received opinion, by Roger de Montgomery,* soon after the conquest. It was held by his descendant, Robert de Belesme, on whose rebellion it was seized by Henry the First. Becoming thus a princely residence, it was guarded by a numerous garrison. In the succeeding reign, the governor Gervas Paganel having betrayed his trust in joining the Empress Matilda,† King Stephen besieged and, according to some authors, took it,‡ though others are of opinion that he abandoned the attempt. In conducting the operations of the siege the king gave a signal proof of his courage and humanity. The young Prince Henry of Scotland, son of King David, who was actively concerned in this enterprise, having approached too near the walls of the castle, was caught from his horse by means of an iron hook fastened to the end of a rope. Stephen observing the perilous situation of the young prince, boldly

Q 2

advanced

* Vide ante, pp. 52, 53.

† Rapin.

‡ Speed, p. 483.

advanced and rescued him at the risk of his own life.* Henry the Second, about the year 1176, presented the castle, together with the vale below it on the banks of the river, called Corve Dale, to his favourite Fulke Fitzwarine, surnamed De Dinan, to whom succeeded Joccas de Dinan. Between him and Hugh de Mortimer, Lord of Wigmore, terrible dissensions arose. In the predatory warfare which ensued it happened that Mortimer, wandering about Whitecliffe Heath, was surprised and seized. He was conveyed to Ludlow castle and confined in one of the towers, which to this day bears his name. In the 5th of Richard the First, Gilbert Talbot had lands given him for the custody of Ludlow castle, and eight years afterwards Hubert Archbishop of Canterbury seized it for the crown. King John presented it to Philip d'Aubigny, from whom it descended to the Lacies or Lessais of Ireland; Walter, the last of the family, dying without issue bequeathed it to his grand-daughter Maud, the wife of Peter de Geneva or Jeneville, a Poictevin of the house of Lorraine, by whose posterity it descended to the Mortimers, and from them passed hereditarily to the crown. During the troublesome reign of Henry the Third, the ambitious Simon Mountfort Earl of Leicester, on his junction with Llewellyn, seized this castle as well as that of Hay.

During the next two centuries scarcely any thing of importance occurs respecting it. In the 13th of Henry the Sixth it was, as we have elsewhere mentioned, in the possession of Richard Duke of York,† who here drew up an affected declaration of allegiance to the king, pretending that his army of ten thousand men was raised for the security of the public welfare. The subsequent conduct of Richard belied his professions, for at the distance of eight years only from the date of the declaration, he was again engaged in raising forces in the Welsh marches, and exciting the friends, whom his recent success over Lord Audley at Blore-heath had gained him, to meet at Ludlow. The king's adherents immediately took up arms

to

* Mat. kew Paris.

† Vide ante, p. 68.

to punish this perfidy ; and through the influence and exertions of the Dukes of Somerset, Exeter and Buckingham, a force was speedily raised, superior to that of the Duke of York. On the arrival of the royal army at Worcester, the king sent offers of pardon to the rebels, on condition that they would lay down their arms and return to their allegiance. This proposal being contemptuously rejected,* the royalists advanced and on the 13th of October 1459 arrived at Ludford, a vill near Ludlow. The Yorkists then lowered their tone, declaring in terms of the most abject submission, that they wished nothing more than the redress of certain grievances introduced into the government by the king's ministers, and that they hoped to be considered as good subjects and restored to favour. This piece of hypocrisy had an effect directly opposite to their design. The royalists concluding that fear had dictated the concession determined to give battle the next day, and they contrived in the mean time to disperse the king's offers of pardon among the rebels, which worked so strongly that numbers began to desert, and a whole detachment under Sir Andrew Trollope went over to the king's camp in the night. This revolt was immediately followed by the flight of the duke and his two sons, the Earls of March and Rutland, with Warwick, Salisbury and other chiefs, leaving the rest to the mercy of the king, who, ordering a few executions for the sake of warning, granted a general pardon. The ill effects of these proceedings were severely felt: not only the castle but the town of Ludlow was given up to rapine and plunder. The king's troops seized every article of value, and, if we may credit the authority of Hall, the Duchess of York and her two sons, with the Duchess of Buckingham, were for a long time kept close prisoners in the castle. In the course of the war it came into the possession of Edward Duke of York, afterwards Edward the Fourth, who then resided at Wigmore. On his

Q 3

accession

* It was called by them a staffe of reede, or glasse-buckler.

accession to the throne he repaired the castle, and made it the court of his son the Prince of Wales. That monarch granted the first charter of incorporation to the town of Ludlow, which had been an ancient corporation by prescription. The charter bears date in the first year of his reign, and recites the grant to have been made in consideration of the services which the faithful burgesses of the borough of Ludlow had done in aid of recovering the rights of the crown. On the death of Edward the Fourth,* the youthful prince, his son, was here proclaimed king, and shortly afterwards removed to London along with his brother, at the instigation of his uncle Gloucester, who had caused himself to be proclaimed protector, in order that he might the more securely effect the murderous usurpation of the crown.

After the close of that tyrant's short and turbulent reign, when the feuds of the kingdom were healed by the union of Henry the Seventh with a princess of the house of York, Ludlow castle again became a royal residence. Arthur, the eldest son of that monarch, held here a court with great splendour and magnificence after his nuptials with Katharine of Arragon, the fourth daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella. On this marriage, which had been negotiated during the course of seven years, Speed's words are "the Lady Katherine being about eighteen years old, and born of so great, so noble, so victorious and virtuous parents, is with just majesty and solemnity openly married to Arthur Prince of Wales, aged about fifteen years, and eldest sonne to Henry the Seventh King of England and Elizabeth his wife. The Archbishop of Canterbury, assisted with nineteen bishops and abbots mitred, joined their hands and performed all the other church rites upon that great day. The vulgar annals can tell you the splendour and glory thereof, in apparell, jewells, pageants, banquets, guests, and other princely complements, the onely weighty business of many weaker braines. A grave lady, as some have written,

was

* Speed, p. 900.

was laid in bed between the bride and bridegroom, to hinder actual consummation in regard of the prince's green estate of body; but others alleadge many arguments to prove that matrimoniall performance was betweene them, however, herself (when that afterwards came in question) appealed to the conscience of King Henry the Eighth (her second husband) if he found her not a maid. But Prince Arthur enjoyed his marriage a very short while, for in April following he died at Ludlow, being under sixteen years, being a prince in whose youth the lights of all noble virtues did clearly begin to shine."* According to the same historian the body of this lamented young prince was buried in Worcester cathedral. There is a tradition that his bowels were deposited in the chancel of Ludlow church, and it is said that his heart inclosed in a leaden box has been found. This account, generally discredited, seems to derive a degree of probability from the following circumstance: on opening a grave in the chancel of Ludlow church, a number of years ago, a leaden box was discovered and sold by the grave-digger to a plumber of the town. This affair coming to the knowledge of the then rector, the box was repurchased, and restored unopened to its former situation.† Such means of preserving the remains of the illustrious dead were in that age not unusual.

The most splendid era of Ludlow castle was the reign of Henry the Eighth and that of Elizabeth, during which the lords presidents of the marches held their courts there with much grandeur and solemnity, and a continual concourse of suitors was attracted to the town. One of the most eminent of these lords was Sir Henry Sidney, who appears to have made the castle his favourite residence; and about the year 1564, put it in a state of thorough repair, adding much to its elegance. He introduced many salutary regulations and ordi-

Q 4

nances

* Hist. of Great Britain, p. 988.

† Hodges's Account of Ludlow Castle.

nances in the proceedings of the court, and devoted himself to the exercise of his office with exemplary fidelity and zeal. He died in the twenty-eighth year of his presidency at the bishop's palace in Worcester, A. D. 1586, and was conveyed thence to his house at Penshurst in Kent. But previous to this his bowels were, pursuant to his own request, buried in the dean's chapel of Worcester cathedral, and his heart was taken to Ludlow and deposited in the same tomb with his beloved daughter Ambrosia, within the little oratory he had made in the church. A leaden urn, said to be the same which contained his heart, was some years ago in the possession of Edward Coleman, Esq. of Leominster; it was about six inches deep, and five inches in diameter at the top. The following inscription was upon it:

HER LYTH THE HARTE OF
SYR HENRYE SIDNY L. P.
ANNO DOMINI 1586.

A print of this urn is given in the Gentleman's Magazine, Vol. LXIV. p. 785. Interesting as such a memorial of that great man may be, it is of less consequence to posterity than the virtuous example which his life afforded, and which was reflected with fresh lustre in the character of his son Sir Philip Sydney.—A model of accomplished learning and a mirror of chivalry that extraordinary person, in the course of his brilliant life, attracted the admiration and esteem of the most eminent warriors, statesmen, and scholars of his time. His end was as heroic as his career was glorious, and he left behind him a name which will be venerated by Englishmen as long as a portion of their national spirit exists.

In 1616, the castle was honoured by a visit from Prince Charles, son of James the First, who there entered on his principality of Wales and Earldom of Chester with great pomp and magnificence. It was next distinguished by the representation

tation of the Masque of Comus in 1634, during the presidency of John Earl of Bridgewater. That exquisite effusion of the youthful genius of Milton had its origin in a real incident. When the earl entered on his official residence he was visited by a large assemblage of the neighbouring nobility and gentry. His sons the Lord Brackley and Mr. Thomas Egerton, and his daughter the Lady Alice, being on their journey

to attend their father's state
And new intrusted sceptre,

were benighted in Haywood forest in Herefordshire, and the lady for a short time was lost. The adventure being related to their father on their arrival at the castle, Milton, at the request of his friend Henry Lawes, who taught music in the family, wrote the Masque. Lawes set it to music, and it was acted on Michaelmas night; the two brothers, the young lady,* and Lawes himself bearing each a part in the representation.

This poem, familiar to every English reader, has been allowed by the most competent judges, to be one of the finest compositions of the kind in the English language, and will ever be held in peculiar estimation, as exhibiting the fair dawn of that genius which burst forth in full splendour in the divine poem of *Paradise Lost*. Its faults, however, called forth the rigorous animadversion of Johnson, who, sparing of his praise and profuse of his censure on all the works of the poet, considered this juvenile effusion without reference to the circumstances under which it was written. For this reason his

opinion

* The Lady Alice Egerton became afterwards the wife of the Earl of Carbery, who, at his seat called Golden Grove in Carmarthenshire, afforded an asylum to Dr. Jeremy Taylor in the time of the usurpation. Among the doctor's sermons is one on her death, in which her character is finely portrayed. Her sister Lady Mary was given in marriage to Lord Herbert of Cherbury. *Chalmers's British Poets*, Vol. VII. p. 274. note.

opinion will lose its weight when compared with the candid and liberal criticism of Warton. We must not, observes that judicious writer, read *Comus* with an eye to the stage, or with the expectation of dramatic propriety. Under this restriction the absurdity of the spirit speaking to an audience in a solitary forest at midnight, and the want of reciprocation in the dialogue, are overlooked. *Comus* is a suite of speeches, not interesting by discrimination of character, not conveying a variety of incidents, nor gradually exciting curiosity, but perpetually attracting attention by sublime sentiments, by fanciful imagery of the richest vein, by an exuberance of picturesque description, poetical allusion, and ornamental expression. While it widely departs from the grotesque anomalies of the mask now in fashion, it does not nearly approach to the natural constitution of a regular play. There is a chastity in the application and conduct of the machinery; and *Sabrina* is introduced with much address after the brothers had imprudently suffered the enchantment to take effect. This is the first instance in which the Old English Mask was in some degree reduced to the principles and form of a rational composition; yet still it could not but retain some of its arbitrary peculiarities. The poet had here properly no more to do with the pathos of tragedy than with the character of comedy, nor can there be found any rule that should confine him to the usual modes of theatrical interlocution.

To this eulogy may be added the praise of having displayed the loveliness of virtue, and exposed the deformity of vice by a lively and consistent allegory, and by a succession of just and moral sentiments enforced with all the enchantment of poetic eloquence. So well sustained is the tone of Milton's numbers throughout the piece, that to give a specimen of its excellence any passage might be promiscuously taken.

The song, with which the benighted lady concludes her soliloquy, in order to make herself heard by her brothers, who
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are in search of her is most happily introduced, and has a wildly pleasing melody well adapted to its subject :

Sweet echo ! Sweetest nymph that liv'st unseen
 Within thy airy shell,
 By slow meander's margent green;
 And in the violet embroidered vale,
 Where the love-lorn nightingale
 Nightly to thee her sad song mourneth well ;
 Canst thou not tell me of a gentle pair,
 That liketh thy Narcissus are?
 O, if thou have
 Hid them in some flowery cave,
 Tell me but where :
 Sweet queen of parly, daughter of the sphere!
 So may'st thou be translated to the skies,
 And give resounding grace to all heaven's harmonies.

In the conduct of his fable, in the structure of his blank verse, and in certain peculiarities of diction, he closely copies Shakspeare. The following passage is a curious instance of the success with which he had studied his model :

He that has light within his own clear breast,
 May sit i' th' centre and enjoy bright day :
 But he that hides a dark soul and foul thoughts
 Benighted walks under the mid-day sun ;
 Himself is his own dungeon.

The conclusion of the Masque strongly evinces that the author never intended it for general representation, and that on the contrary he had no other view than to answer the particular purpose for which, at the hint of his friend, he undertook it. The scene changes from the magic palace of Comus to a view of the town and castle of Ludlow ; and one of the songs is addressed to the earl and his countess, congratulating them on the constancy of their children in the trials to which their virtues had been exposed.

It is singular to remark that this composition met with a reception much more favourable than the later and more mature

ture works of Milton, being represented by noble actors, on a stage and before an auditory equally noble. But whatever honours accrued to the poet on this account, were in the lapse of a few ages to reflect on his patrons from the splendour of his name. The pomp and pageantry, the princely magnificence that attended the court of the marches were soon to disappear, and the stillness of desolation was to succeed the bustle of festivity and merriment. This proud castle which once held dominion over a whole principality was to be abandoned to decay, to be spoiled of every memorial of its illustrious inhabitants, and to be left an awful monument of the mutability of human affairs. Yet even in this state it might still excite interest; though ruined it might be venerable, though solitary it could never be wholly deserted, and the traveller, who turned aside to view its ruins, would pause, ere he passed on, to do homage to the memory of the divine poet, who had hallowed them with his immortal strains:

Here Milton sung.—What needs a greater spell
 To lure thee stranger to these far-fam'd walls?
 Though chroniclers of other ages tell
 That princes oft have graced fair Ludlow's halls.
 Their honours glide along oblivion's stream,
 And o'er the wrecks a tide of ruin drives;
 Faint and more faint the rays of glory beam
 That gild their course—the bard alone survives.
 And when the rude unceasing shocks of time,
 In one vast heap shall whelm this lofty pile,
 Still shall his genius, towering and sublime,
 Triumphant o'er the spoils of grandeur smile;
 Still in these haunts, true to a nation's tongue,
 Echo shall love to dwell, and say, here MILTON sung.*

To return from this digression to the history of the castle: during the civil wars in the reign of Charles the First it was
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* It is but just that the reader should be apprized that this sonnet is from the pen of my colleague. It was suggested during his late visit to this venerable ruin, rendered classic by the muse of Milton. J. N.

for some time kept as a garrison for the king. In the summer of 1645, a force of near two thousand horse and foot, drawn together out of the garrisons of Ludlow, Hereford, Worcester, and Monmouth, were by a less number of the parliament forces defeated near Ludlow.* The castle was delivered up on the 9th of June in the following year.

At the restoration, during the presidency of the Earl of Carbery, the celebrated Butler, who was made secretary to that nobleman, wrote in one of the towers of this castle a part of his incomparable *Hudibras*. It was about this period that he married Mrs. Herbert, a gentlewoman of good family, and he seems to have enjoyed in his retreat a life of comfort though not of affluence, and to have had leisure to revise and correct his work. In 1663, the first part containing three cantos was published, and in the year following the second part appeared. Its success drew him forth into the public world, sure of praise and full of hopes of emolument. But fame, observes his biographer, was his only reward. His poem was universally admired; the king quoted, the courtiers studied, and the royalists applauded it, but the author was the dupe of promises which were trifled with and forgotten; in the midst of disappointment and neglect he published the third part in an unfinished state, and in 1680 he died in indigence.

After the dissolution of the court of the marches, and the consequent abolition of the office of Lord President, in the first year of William and Mary, the castle being no longer guarded even by a steward, gradually fell to decay, and was despoiled of its curious and valuable ornaments. Its royal apartments, halls, and state-rooms, were stripped and plundered, every thing moveable became the property of such of the inhabitants of the town as chose to carry it away. The progressive stages of ruin to which this noble edifice was doomed, may be distinguished in the accounts of travellers who visited it at various periods. In the account prefixed to Buck's antiquities, published

* Sir E. Walker's *Historical Discourses*, fol. p. 129.

published in 1774, it is observed, that many of the royal apartments were yet entire, and the sword, with the velvet hangings, was still preserved. An extract from the tour through Great Britain, quoted by Grose as a just and accurate account of the castle, represents the chapel as having abundance of coats of arms upon the pannels, and the hall as decorated with the same ornaments, together with lances, spears, firelocks, and old armour. Dr. Todd, in his learned edition of *Comus*, says, “a gentleman* who visited the castle in 1768 has acquainted me that the floors of the great council chamber were then pretty entire, as was the staircase. The covered steps leading to the chapel were remaining, but the covering of the chapel was fallen; yet the arms of some of the lords presidents were visible. In the great council chamber was inscribed on the wall a sentence from 1 Sam. chap. xii. ver. 3; all of which are now wholly gone. The person who shewed this gentleman the castle informed him that, according to tradition, the masque of *Comus* was performed in the council chamber.”

Of the barbarous manner in which this ancient fabric was stripped of its honours some idea may be formed, when it is known that many of the pannels, bearing the arms of the lords presidents, were converted into wainscoting for a public house in the town, the owner of which enriched himself with the sale of materials plundered from the castle.† After enduring this
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* John Dovaston, Esq. of the nursery, near Oswestry, to whose revered memory we shall have elsewhere in this work an opportunity of doing homage. Besides an account of Ludlow town and castle, from the most early times to the first year of William and Mary, copied from a manuscript of the Rev. Richard Podmore, A. B. carefully collected from authentic sources, this gentleman preserved a volume of original Ludlow state papers, relating to the marches of Wales, for a period commencing Sep. 15, 1586, and ending July 24, in the ninth year of Charles the Second. To his son, John F. M. Dovaston, Esq. we are happy to express our grateful obligations, as well for an inspection of these curious manuscripts, as for the valuable information he has kindly and liberally given us relative to various parts of the county.

† Hodges's History of Ludlow Castle, 51.

and similar devastations, it has long remained a total and absolute ruin, still interesting by the mutilated features of its former grandeur, and by the beauty of its site. Its walls are of great height and thickness, fortified with round and square towers at irregular distances. On one side it is partly circumscribed by a deep ditch, cut out of the rock, and on the other it is bounded by an almost inaccessible steep, overlooking the vale of Corve. It evidently consisted of two separate parts: the castle, properly speaking, in which were the palace and lodgings; and the green, or outwork, which Dr. Stukely supposes to have been called the barbican. The green takes in a large compass of ground, in which were the court of judicature and records, the stables and other offices, and the garden and bowling green. Over several of the stable doors remain the arms of Queen Elizabeth and of the Earl of Pembroke. Over the inner gate of the castle are the arms of the Sidney family, with the following inscription, still legible:

HOMINIBUS INGRATIS LOQUIMINI
 LAPIDES. ANNO REGNI REGINÆ
 Elizabethæ 23. THE 28 YEAR
 COPLET OF THE PRESIDENCY
 OF SIR HENRI SIDNEY KNIGHT
 OF THE MOST NOBLE ORDER OF THE
 GARTER ET C. 1581.

Of the chapel, a circular building in the inner court is all that now remains. The only inhabited part of these extensive ruins is Mortimer's Tower, which is occupied by a mechanic. The ground adjoining the side next the town is converted into a fives court. Round the castle, along the sides of the eminence, are public walks, shaded with trees, which were laid out in 1772, through the munificence of the Countess of Powis. From these walks a magnificent variety of prospect presents itself.—The opening toward the north displays the windings of the Teme, the mansion of Oakley Park, half hid by trees, and is terminated

terminated with a bold outline, formed by the Clee hills, the Caer Caradoc, and other hills near Stretton. The more confined view toward the west exhibits a bold eminence, partly clothed with wood, the rocks of Whitecliffe, with the rapid stream at their base, and, in short, a full union of those features in rural scenery which constitute the picturesque. The loveliness of nature is here heightened by contrast with the venerable grey towers of the castle, and the effect of the whole is calculated at once to awaken the enthusiasm of fancy, and to diffuse the calm of contemplation.

The Church of Ludlow, though it never was strictly speaking *collegiate*, possessed a chantry of ten priests, maintained by the rich gild of St. John, who gave to its choral service the splendour of a cathedral. The church stands in the highest part of the town, and is a stately and very spacious structure in the form of a cross, with a lofty well adorned tower in the centre, in which is a melodious peal of eight bells. The principal entrance from the town is by a large hexagonal porch, over which is a room, inhabited by the sexton. The nave is divided from its ailes by six lofty pointed arches on each side, springing from light clustered pillars, each consisting of four taper shafts, with the intermediate spaces hollowed. Above them is a clere-story, with a range of heavy unpleasing windows. The great western window has been entirely despoiled of its mullioned tracery. The four great arches under the tower are remarkably bold: beneath the eastern arch is the choral roodloft, the lower part of which is embellished with open carved work, but upon it has been most improperly erected a modern gallery. On this stands a large and very fine toned organ, given by Henry Arthur, Earl of Powis, about sixty years ago. The choir is spacious, and is lighted by five lofty pointed windows on each side, and one of much larger dimensions at the east end, which occupies the whole breadth and nearly the whole height of the choir. This great window is entirely filled with painted glass, though not of rich colouring, representing chiefly
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the legend of St. Laurence, the patron saint of the church. In the side-windows are also large remains of stained glass, principally figures of saints, of richer colouring than that of the eastern window. The oak stalls are still perfect, but some barbarous hand has daubed them over with yellow paint. In the chancel are many fine monuments of the lords presidents of the council of Wales, held in the neighbouring castle. On each side the choir is a chantry chapel; in that on the north are some very splendid remnants of painted glass, portraying the story of the ring presented by some pilgrims to Edward the Confessor, who brought it from beyond the sea, as a token from St. John the Evangelist; which pilgrims, the legend recites, were *men of Ludlow*. The whole of this noble parish church is ceiled with fine oak, and embellished with carving. The extreme length, from west to east, is 228 feet, of which the nave is 90, the choir 78, and the area under the tower 32; breadth of nave and aisles, 73 feet; of choir, 22. Ludlow Church was built in the reigns of Henry the Seventh and Eighth, chiefly by the munificence of the Gild of St. John, of which the lords presidents and neighbouring nobility and gentry were probably members. It has a character of plainness not usual in the larger churches of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

Adjoining the churchyard is an almshouse for aged widows and widowers, founded by Mr. John Hosier, merchant, in 1486, and rebuilt by the corporation in 1758. To the west of the church is a range of building, with a court and gateway, called the College. Nearly in the centre of the town, at the top of Broad Street, stands the cross, a handsome stone building: the rooms over it are used as a public school. The market house is in the middle of Castle Street; its lower compartment is open, and serves as a corn market; the rooms above, supported by arched walls, are used for corporation-meetings, balls, assemblies, &c. The Guildhall, used for quarter sessions, &c. is a commodious modern building, situated in Mill Street.—In this street is also the Grammar School, founded by Edward the

Fourth: the modern, as well as the ancient languages are taught there. The prison, called Goalford's Tower, was erected in 1764 on the site of a tower so named. The town was formerly surrounded by a wall, parts of which may yet be seen in various places: of its seven gates, only one gateway now remains at the bottom of Broad Street.

Ludlow is at present represented in parliament by the Right Hon. Viscount Clive and H. Clive, Esq. It would be improper to take leave of the town without noticing the attention it has lately excited, as the residence chosen by government for Lucien Buonaparte, a prisoner of war. The circumstances which occasioned his flight from Italy need not here be detailed; nor could any sketch of his life and character with propriety be given. One observation however we cannot suppress; Ludlow which has in former times been honoured as a resort for crowned heads, should be at present the abode of a man who has at least the merit of having repeatedly refused a crown, which was to be purchased by usurpation and held by tyranny.

At a distance of rather more than two miles north-west of Ludlow is Oakeley Park, the seat of the venerable and benevolent Dowager Lady Clive. The grounds, naturally romantic and beautiful, are laid out with great taste and judgment; the remains of a fine forest of oaks, and the meanderings of the Teme contribute greatly to enrich the scenery. The prospects in various directions are charming; one in particular towards the south-east, comprehending the town and castle of Ludlow, is much and deservedly celebrated. The mansion, a great part of which is of modern construction, stands finely on the banks of the river; among the good pictures it contains, is a very large one by Weenix, the celebrated Dutch landscape painter, purchased by the late Lord Clive: it is considered a *chef d'œuvre* of that artist.

Immediately adjoining the domain is the village of BROMFIELD, containing within its parish about ninety houses, and 500 inhabitants. This place is only remarkable as containing the
remains

remains of a priory or cell of Benedictines, formerly belonging to the abbey of St. Peter, Gloucester. It is delightfully situated on the road leading to Shrewsbury. Its walls were washed by the clear and pastoral river Teme. The ruins are now within the grounds of Oakeley Park; the flat pointed arch of the gate-house is standing, with the western portion of the church patched up and made parochial; the latter has been so mutilated as not to deserve attention.

Tanner says this was originally a college of prebends or secular canons, who in 1155 turned Benedictine Monks; and that it was valued at 78l. 19s. and granted, fifth Philip and Mary, to Charles Fox.

A little to the north-east of Bromfield are the remains of HOPTON CASTLE, of which but very few historical records exist. It was taken during the civil wars in the reign of Charles the First, and was afterwards nearly destroyed; most of the men who composed the garrison were put to the sword, and governor Samuel Moor, Esq. was confined as a common prisoner in Ludlow Castle. There exists a manuscript account in the hand writing of this unfortunate governor, which details the mode of attack and defence at the siege of the castle.* Camden mentions Hopton Castle as having been given with New Castle, Shipton, and Coversham, by Henry the Second to Walter de Clifford.† In the civil wars just mentioned, it belonged to Mr. Wallop, and was gallantly defended for the Parliament; the siege lasted more than a fortnight. It is now the property of Mrs. Beale, of Heath House in that neighbourhood; but is a miserable ruin.‡

Near the village of Oneybury is STOKE CASTLE, improperly indeed called a castle,§ but constituting a curious specimen of the castellated mansion of former days. It has suffered a degra-

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* Price's Ludlow Guide, p. 64.

† Gough Cam. III. p. 4.

‡ See Pearson's Select Views of the Antiquities of Shropshire, 1807.

§ Mr. Owen's Account of Shrewsbury, p. 477. note.

dation not uncommon to places of ancient note; part of it being used as an out-house to an adjoining farm, and the rest suffered to fall to decay. A gate-house constructed of wooden framework, with curious carvings, leads to the door of a large and lofty hall, which is at present destitute of any remains of a fireplace; at the end of this part of the edifice is an octagonal tower with winding stairs. The mansion is the property of Lord Craven who has great estates in this part of the country.

In a north-westerly direction near the village of Basford, on the road to Bishop's Castle, is WALCOT PARK, which was the principal residence of Lord Clive before he became heir to the Powis estates, and received the title of Earl of Powis. The adjacent hills are cloathed with full-grown woods and flourishing plantations; the park is very extensive, finely laid out and abundantly stocked with deer. On a gently rising eminence stands the mansion, which is built of brick, with stone corners and a doric portico in front. The approach to it is nobly embellished by lofty trees, and by a fine expanse of water on the right. Within the verge of the domain is a hill called *Tongley*, on which are vestiges of a British encampment called *Bury Ditches*. The area of the camp is circular and of great extent, defended by three deep trenches with high mounds or ramparts, which in some places have been planted with firs, by order of the proprietor. These, as they grow up, tend to interrupt the continuity of the trenches, and to destroy the character of the place, a circumstance which every antiquary who visits it will doubtless regret. From this eminence a grand and varied scene presents itself: on one hand is seen Clun with its ruined castle situated in a dreary wild, bounded by bleak heights; on the other, the town of Bishop's Castle, with the interjacent valley, displaying several gradations of culture and fertility. In other parts the prospect is enlivened by occasional glimpses of rich pastoral landscape, rendered more delightful by contrast with the bold and naked hills that overlook them. Among other encampments in this neighbourhood, there is one between Purslow and

and Basford Gate; it takes in the whole compass of a hill called *Borough Hill*,* in form somewhat resembling a heart, and is fortified with a single foss in some parts, and in others with a double or treble area, according as the ground is more or less accessible; and where there is the advantage of a precipice there is neither ditch nor rampart: the foss is grown over with trees. About three miles south of the *Bury Ditches* is the *Caer Caradoc*, designated by Camden as the scene of the contest between Caractacus and Ostorius, to which we have elsewhere adverted.† If any thing could add further probability to the conjecture there stated, it is the frequency of military posts in this hilly district, to which the Britons appear to have fled to make a last stand against their invaders.

CLUN, a small and neglected town, deriving its name from that of its river Colun or Clun, has little worthy of note except its castle, which has been for ages a ruin. It was built in the reign of Henry the Third by William Fitz-Alan, to one of whose ancestors the manor had devolved by marriage into the Family of Say. John the son of William, was captain-general of the forces commanding the Welsh marches, and this castle was in those turbulent times a strong hold for warriors, and a receptacle of their plunder. It remained in his line down to the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when the last earl died: by the marriage of Mary Fitz-Alan with Philip Howard, the son of Thomas Duke of Norfolk, it became vested in that noble family. From them it passed to the Walcotts, and afterwards by purchase to Lord Clive, in whose family it continues. The Duke of Norfolk still retains the title of Baron of Clun.

BISHOP'S CASTLE

is so called because the Bishops of Hereford had anciently a castle here, which was generally their country residence. This edifice has long been demolished: a part of its site, probably the keep, has been converted into a bowling green. The town is irregularly built on a declivity near

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* Gough's Camden, III. 14.

† Vide ante, p. 3.

the stream of the Clun, and contains few objects to excite curiosity or interest. It is an ancient corporation, and sends two members to parliament. Its present representatives are W. Clive, Esq. and J. Robinson, Esq. This place gave birth to Jeremiah Stephens a learned man and an industrious writer; he was admitted prebendary of Biggleswade, in the county of Lincoln, in consideration of the assistance he rendered to Sir Henry Spelman in the compilation of his first volume of the English councils. The learned antiquary thus acknowledges the obligation: "Our loving friend, Jeremy Stephens, a man born for the public good, by whose assistance this first tome comes out, and on whom the hope of the rest is founded."* His published works consist of, "Notes on St. Cyprian of the Unity of the Church, and the Good of Patience," Lond. 1632 and 1633; "An apology for the ancient right and power of Bishops to sit and vote in parliament," Lond. 1660; "St. Gregory's Pastoral," Lond. 1629. His unpublished writings are, "A treatise of the English laws;" "A comparison between the Belgic, Bohemian, and Scotch covenants;" "Of the principles and practices of the Presbyterians," &c. He died at Wotton, in 1664.

CHIRBURY, is a pleasant village, situated in a fine and fertile vale on the borders of Montgomeryshire. It had formerly a castle, said to have been built by Ethelfleda, queen of the Mercians. Its ancient consequence is denoted by its having given name to the hundred. The chief architectural antiquity belonging to it are the remains of a priory of Austin canons. The nave of the church forms the present parish church; the choir and transept are totally destroyed; at the west end is a strong and handsome square tower, with eight short pinnacles and an open-worked battlement; the church has on each side the nave six pointed arches on plain round pillars; the clere-story is demolished, and the roof is now of modern plaster. This church was about sixteen years ago very handsomely fitted up with oak wainscot seats. A fine old deep toned priory bell remained till lately, and was used for ringing the curfew; it was

* Spelman, Pref. Eng. councils.

was cracked about five years ago, and the metal with that of three other small bells, now composes a new peal of six. A handsome pointed arch north of the church, and some walls are the only remains of the priory. The tithes of this extensive parish were granted by Queen Elizabeth to the grammar school of Shrewsbury, founded by her brother Edward the Sixth.

Chirbury is principally noted as having given a title of honour to the celebrated Edward Lord Herbert, whose learning and chivalry rendered him admired in every civilized nation in the world. As, however, this extraordinary man was not a native of this county, but of Montgomery, any particular biographical account of him in this place would be contrary to our plan. Granger speaks of his lordship as standing in the first ranks of the public ministers, historians, and philosophers of his age. It is hard to say, continues this biographical historian, whether his person, his understanding, or his courage, was the most extraordinary. But the same man was wise and capricious; redressed wrongs and quarrelled for punctilios; hated bigotry and was himself a bigot to philosophy. He exposed himself to such dangers as other men of courage would have carefully declined; and called in question the fundamentals of a religion which none had the hardiness to dispute besides himself.* This account of the Baron of Chirbury reminds one of the character given of the artful and sarcastic unbeliever Voltaire, by his royal friend Frederick the Great of Prussia: Voltaire is denominated by this monarch "a moralist destitute of morality," though it would be obviously unjust to the memory of the noble baron to represent him as holding, from similar motives, the same principles and harbouring the same dark and dangerous dispositions as those cherished by the hoary-headed author of the Political Dictionary. One incident in the life of this extraordinary man we may be allowed to mention, as an instance of uncommon superstition or credulity, in one who seemed desirous to be accounted the first to break asunder

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* Granger's Biographical History of England, Vol. II. pp. 145, 146. 3vo. Ed. 1804.

the shackles of education and irrational prepossessions in affairs of moral and religious enquiry. Lord Herbert was author of several learned and ingenious works, one of which, entitled *De Veritate*, he regarded as his favourite work. This book, though it had been approved of by some very learned men, who had seen it in manuscript (among whom is mentioned the celebrated Grotius) the author had some scruples of mind about the propriety of publishing, and to satisfy himself on this head, he thought proper to make application to heaven for a sign. His lordship thus relates this most singular affair:—

“Being thus doubtful, in my chamber, one fair day in the summer, my casement being open towards the south, the sun shining clear, and no wind stirring, I took my book ‘*De Veritate*’ in my hand, and kneeling on my knees devoutly said these words: ‘O Thou eternal God, author of the light which now shines upon me, and giver of all inward illuminations, I do beseech Thee of Thy infinite goodness, to pardon a greater request than a sinner ought to make; I am not satisfied enough whether I shall publish this work ‘*De Veritate*,’ if it be for Thy glory, I beseech Thee give me some sign from heaven; if not, I shall suppress it.’ I had no sooner,” continues the baron, “spoken these words, but a loud, though yet gentle noise, came from heaven, (for it was like nothing on earth) which did so comfort and cheer me, that I took my petition as granted, and that I had the sign I demanded; whereupon also I resolved to print my book: this (how strange soever it may seem) I protest before the eternal God, is true, neither am I in any way superstitiously deceived herein, since I did not only clearly hear the noise, but in the serenest sky that ever I saw, being without all cloud, did, to my thinking, see the place from whence it came. And now I sent my book to be printed at Paris, at my own costs and charges.”*

We have not room to remark at much length on this odd
adventure

* See Leland's View of the Deistical writers, Vol. I. p. 27, and Life of Lord Herbert, pp. 170, 171.

adventure. Few people will read the account without being convinced of the author's sincerity and candour; but fewer still will rise from the relation with any sort of persuasion of the reality of this supposed divine interference in regard to the publication of *De Veritate*. His lordship is usually, and perhaps properly, ranked among the deists; but charges of this kind should always be received with great caution; it being, in our opinion, somewhat difficult to convict any writer, besides those who honestly avow or sneeringly insinuate it, of absolute infidelity, especially when it is considered, as we think it ought, that reason and revelation are not in reality so greatly discordant as some christians seem inclined to maintain. Of one fact we are certain, that many authors, no way unfriendly to the truths of christianity, have been stigmatized as infidels, merely because they have not chanced to express their views of religion in the established phraseology of the day.

CAUSE CASTLE, near the village of Westbury, in the hundred of Ford, is supposed to have been erected by Roger Corbett, who held of Earl Roger de Montgomery a tract of land in this quarter consisting of thirty-nine manors or hamlets. It is conjectured that he gave the above name to this his capital seat in allusion to a castle in the Pays de Caux in Normandy. As he or his son probably took sides with Robert de Belesme in his rebellion, the castle is supposed to have been forfeited to Henry the First, who gave it to Paris Fitz-John, from whom it was taken by the Welsh. It was restored to the original lords, and in the first of King John a weekly market was obtained for it at the instance of Robert Corbett. Its proximity to the Welsh frontier rendered its tenure uncertain, and we find that it was again seized by the Welsh, and restored by Henry the Third. In the reign of Edward the Third, the male line of the family becoming extinct, the castle was transferred by marriage of a daughter of the house, to the Staffords Earls of Stafford, on the execution of the last of whom, Edward Duke of Buckingham, it was forfeited to the crown, but was restored to his son Edward.

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It was alienated in the reign of Elizabeth to Robert Harcourt, from whom it has descended to Lord Viscount Weymouth.*

The site of this castle is perhaps one of the most lofty and commanding in the whole range of the Salopian frontier. It is an insulated ridge, rising abruptly from a deep ravine on one side, and sloping towards a vast valley, bounded by the Stiperstones on the other. The keep mount is singularly steep and towering; it must have been ascended by steps or by a winding path, but no traces of either at present remain; part of a well is still distinguishable; the castle itself is in a state of the merest ruin; it has apparently been stripped of all its dressed stone, as the fragments of the edifice that are here and there left standing, consist of the rude materials used for filling up the interior of the thick walls. Parts of one of the entrance-gateways, evidently of a more recent date than the original castle, are still to be discerned.

Winnington, a small village near the Welsh border, in the parish of Alberbury, deserves to be enumerated among the places of note in Shropshire; not because it contains any rich remains of ancient architecture, or exhibits any vestiges of feudal grandeur, or has been signalized in history as the scene of war and bloodshed, but because it is the birth place of that proverb for longevity, Thomas Parr. He was born in the reign of Edward the Fourth, in 1483, and died in that of Charles the First, in 1635, having lived one hundred and fifty two years, nine months, and some days. There is scarcely to be found a period more eventful in English history, or one which an historian intent on marking the changes of society through a lapse of time would sooner choose to live in. The close of the civil wars of York and Lancaster, the usurpation of Richard the Third, the battle of Bosworth, the quiet reign of Henry the Seventh, the rejection of the papal supremacy, the rise, progress and establishment of the protestant religion, the unhappy persecutions which were exercised on both sides, the long and glorious reign of Elizabeth, the

* Gough's Camden, III. 31.

the prosperous state of the kingdom under James the First, and during the first years of the succeeding monarch, the gradual advancement of learning, and the succession of eminent men who flourished during the period, form a varied series of the most interesting subjects that can engage the attention of a philosopher. Such was the life-time of Old Parr;—a perfect contrast to what may be called his life, which glided away in the “noiseless tenour” of remote and humble obscurity. The few facts that are recorded of him, during the natural term of human existence, exhibit nothing remarkable; it was only when he exceeded that term that he became an object of curiosity. His father, it is said, was an husbandman, and sent him, at the age of seventeen, to a neighbouring farmer, with whom he lived till the year 1518. He held his father’s farm sixty-three years, and, at the end of the third lease, took a fourth for life. By his wife Jane he had a son and a daughter who died young. At the age of one hundred and twenty-two he married a Welsh widow, and three years afterwards* he did penance in the parish church of Alberbury, for an amour with a fair damsel of the name of Catherine Milton, who filiated a child on him.

The fame of his uncommonly vigorous old age was very widely diffused, and at length reached the ears of the Earl of Arundel during one of his visits to his manors in Shropshire. This nobleman, anxious to gratify King Charles with the sight of the oldest man in his dominions, ordered Old Parr to be conveyed by easy stages to London.† The account of his journey, given by Taylor the water poet, illustrates, in some degree, the character of the times, while it shews strongly the thoughtlessness, not to say cruelty, of the undertaking. “His lordship commanded that a litter and two horses (for the more easy carriage of a man so enfeebled and worn with age) should be provided

* Or, according to other accounts, at the age of one hundred and five. See the *Life of Thomas Parr*, by Taylor, the water poet. Harl. Misc. Vol. IV. 8vo. Edit. 1810.

† Harl. Misc. at sup.

vided for him; also that a daughter-in-law of his, named Lucy, (an *old* woman?) should likewise attend him, and have a horse for her own riding with him; and to cheer up the old man, and make him merry, there was an antic-faced fellow, called Jack, or John the Fool, with a high and mighty no-beard, that had also a horse for his carriage." This cavalcade, in its progress through the country to the metropolis, attracted great crowds, so that it was sometimes scarcely possible for the earl's servants who conducted it, to prevent the old man from being stifled. The journey was at length finished, and the blind and decrepid patriarch was introduced to the presence of the king, who is reported to have said to him, "You have lived longer than other men; what have you done more than other men?" Old Parr mentioned his affair with Catherine Milton. "Fie, old man," said the king, "can you remember nothing but your vices?" The change of living entirely ruined his health, and in six weeks after his arrival in London he died. By the testimony of medical men who examined his body it appears that if he had been suffered to remain in his former situation and to continue his former habits, he might have lived much longer. His fate was like that of a venerable oak, transplanted from the soil and clime in which it had flourished for ages.

Allowing for the rude quaintness of diction peculiar to his writings, the water poet has drawn a striking picture of this Salopian Methuselah.—

His limbs their strength have left,
 His teeth all gone but one, his sight bereft,
 His sinews shrunk, his blood most chill and cold,
 Small solace, imperfections manifold:
 Yet did his spirits possess his mortal trunk,
 Nor were his senses in his ruins shrunk:
 But that, with hearing quick, and stomach good,
 He'd feed well, sleep well, well digest his food.
 He would speak heartily, laugh and be merry,
 Drink ale, and now and then a cup of sherry;

Lov'd

Lov'd company and understanding talk,
 And, on both sides held up, would sometimes walk;
 And though old age his face with wrinkles fill,
 He hath been handsome, and was comely still;
 Well fac'd, and though his beard not oft corrected,
 Yet neat it grew, not like a beard neglected;
 From head to heel his body had all over
 A quickset, thickset, natural hairy cover.*

His long uninterrupted state of health was owing to the native vigour of his constitution, improved by hardy and laborious exercise, by simplicity of diet, by moderation in social enjoyments, and in no small degree to the pure and salubrious air of the Welsh border of Salop.

OSWESTRY

was sometimes called *Osester*, *Osestry*, and *Oswald-stre*. The Welsh called it *Croes Oswallt* (Oswald's Cross) on account of Oswald, King of Northumberland, being slain there by Penda, King of Mercia, Anno Christi 642, and his body in derision nailed to a cross. The Saxons called this town *Macerfeld*, or *Macerfelth*, derived of *macer* an acorn, and *felth* a field. The Britons called this town of old *Tre evesan-gluddin*, in *Urbern*, *Tre Kadari*, or the town of great oaks. The seal of this town, cut in brass, is King Oswald sitting in his robes on a chair, holding a sword in his right hand and an oak branch in his left, with the words around "De Oswaldestre sigillum commune." Oswald was son of Adelfrid the Seventh, King of Northumberland, whose brother's name was Oswy. These young princes were driven out of the kingdom of their father by Cadwallan, who had been before beat out of Wales by Edwyn. Oswald, after seventeen years exile in Scotland, was restored to his kingdom by the death and overthrow of Cadwallan,

* "The old, old, very old man, or the age and long life of Thomas Parr, by John Taylor." Harl. Misc. ut sup.

wallan, Anno 634. Oswald, during his exile in Scotland, was baptized into the Christian religion, and brought Aidhan (or Aidan) Fynnan and Dimma, who were monks, from Scotland, and were first settled there by St. Columbanus (or Collymcille) who built a monastery there. Aidan was a bishop and preached Christianity to the English, and because he was defective in speaking English, King Oswald explained the meaning to the people. Oswald's goodness caused Aidan to pray that his arm might never fail, but ever be supplied by God's assistance, which gave occasion to monkish writers (and Bede among them) to set forth that his arm never rotted in the grave.* Near to Oswestry, in a field called Cae Naef (Heaven's Field) are the ruins of a chapel founded by King Oswald over a well, whence flows a singularly fine spring of water, which well is yet called Fynnon y Capel Oswalt. These lands were given by Rynerus, Bishop of St. Asaph, to the monks of Shrewsbury, who demolished the chapel. Bede reports this place to have been famous for miracles, and the Christians of that age held it to be most holy. In honour of St. Oswald they built a monastery in the Cae Capel Oswalt, not far from the present churchyard, where, not many years ago, were to be seen parts of the ruins of the cloisters. Oswestry, after the death of Oswald, was called Tre-fesen, the Saxon name Maserfield became obsolete. Since then it has been called Tre-fred (Meredith's Town) and Album Monasterium; but that of Tre-fred only continued during the time that Meredith a Blethin was Prince of Powys and lord of the town; for the hundred of Oswestry was called the hundred of Meredith's town; and the name of Oswaldstre and Oswestry have since then been near 1000 years continued.

Hên Dinas, mentioned by Camden, is a quarter of a mile north east of Oswestry: it was formerly called by the Welsh Lys Ogran, or Caer Ogran, that is Ogran's Palace, or Ogran's strong

* His arm was enshrined in silver, and kept at St. Peter's Church, at Bebban, now Bamborough: his body was buried at Bradney, in Lincolnshire.

strong place. It is now called Old Fort (and by vulgar corruption Old Port) and is a natural bank, having a sudden ascent on all sides, with a deep triple entrenchment on the top and sides. The common people of Oswestry having a groundless notion that the ancient town stood here, call it Old Oswestry; but this arises probably from its name Hên Dinas, old camp or city. Tradition says that this Ogran was father to Gwenhwyfar, the wife of King Arthur, who lies buried with him at Glastonbury Abbey. Madoc ap Meredith built a castle at Oswestry, which was called by him Tower Fradock, 1149, about the fourth of Stephen, Owen Gwerydd then being Prince of North Wales. The town was walled round, and had the four gates built by one of the Fitz-Allans. Though it is said that it was walled in the time of Edward the First, and that the gate called the New Gate was built in Edward the Second's time, 970—this gate was erected in the time of the Saxons, for in the front of the gate, over the archway, was carved in stone a horse, which was the arms or ensign of the Saxons. This gate and Beatrice Gate were more modern and handsomer than the Willow Gate, or Black Gate, the latter of which was so low in the arch that loads could scarce go under; having been rendered so by several pavements being put one over the other to repair the street, and make a vent for the water, which made the passage through it bad. Beatrice Gate, it is said, was built by one Bettridge, who was daughter to Simon Lord Montford (Henry the Second) and wife to Hugh Cefelioe, fifth Earl of Chester. This lady, travelling that way, fell in labour and was delivered of a son, Randolph, Earl of Chester and Lincoln, who was surnamed Blandeville, because he was born in Powys called Album Monasterium. * Others say that this gate was built by Beatrice, daughter to John, King of Portugal, who was married to Thomas, Earl of Arundel and Surrey, in 1405, in the presence of Henry the Fourth of England.—All these gates were taken down about the year 1769.

Henry the Second, on his marching against the Welsh over
Berwin

Berwin mountains, lay at Oswestry; and a great number of his men being sent out from thence to try the passage through the river Cyriog, in going through a wood of birch, at the farther end of Selattin Hill, opposite to Crogen Castle (now Chirk Castle) the Welsh fell upon them in the wood, and slew most of them. There their graves are still to be seen; and the place is thence called *Adwy yr Beden*, the Passage of the Birches, though some call it *Adwy yr Bedhan*, the Passage of the Graves. Henry was afterwards defeated by the Welsh on Berwin mountains. In 1212, King John came to Oswestry, which was then in the possession of the Fitz-Alans, and burnt the town and castle to the ground; then with his nobles and army he entered Wales, but did nothing but plunder. It was also burnt 1233, by Llewellyn, of North Wales, called Leolinus Magnus.

Oswestry has extended on all sides considerably beyond the boundary of the ancient wall, and is yearly continuing to extend, particularly on the English side. Of the castle but a few fragments remain, but those of prodigious strength on a very high artificial mount, on the west side of the town: this mount commands a very rich and extensive view of Shropshire and some of the adjacent counties. This flourishing little town has last year (1810) been very much improved by an act for widening, paving, and lighting the streets. It stands just in Shropshire, on the very border of the British frontier. The country for several miles round it is delightfully varied with hills, vales, wood, and water, and abounds in rich scenery: the prospect on the Montgomery side is terminated abruptly by the august ridge of the prominent mountains of Breidden.

Above Oswestry, on the Welsh side, is Hayes, a very ancient stone house, built in the form of a cross, and lately surrounded with very thick and large wood. The front windows contained stained glass, very ancient and curious. This place is chiefly remarkable for having been the seat of the late Richard Hill Waring, Esq. barrister at law, and recorder of Oswestry; a man highly eminent for his classical and scientific learning:

learning: he had made the grand tour of Europe, and spent a long and laborious life in the pursuit of knowledge. His singularity of manners and dress (though clean and neat to an uncommon degree) and his attention to economy, occasioned the babbling and the ignorant to form strange opinions of him; nay, some have even dared to stigmatize him with the horrible appellation of avaricious; but since his death a very different opinion has prevailed, and it has been clearly seen that his abundant riches could not have been held by a worthier possessor. He maintained a regular and uninterrupted correspondence, for nearly fifty years, with the late John Dovaston, Esq. of West Felton, where a very large collection of his letters is still preserved, on natural history, philosophy, and antiquities. Botany was one of his favourite pursuits, and many of the rare plants found about Oswestry are stragglers from the Hayes, which passing botanists have set down as indigenous.

In the southern vicinity of Oswestry is ASTON PARK, a noble domain, the natural beauties of which have received great improvement from the taste and judgment of its highly respected owner, W. Lloyd, Esq. The mansion belonging to it is surpassed by few in elegance. Near the village of WEST FELTON, in its neighbourhood, is the elegant villa of John F. M. Dovaston, Esq. called the Nursery. To the great and estimable qualities which adorn the mind and heart of this gentleman; to his high genius, his lively fancy, and his ardent benevolence, were we to obey the grateful impulse of our feelings, we would pour forth an ample eulogy; yet perhaps none more proper can at present be given, than to say that he has inherited his father's virtues. John Dovaston, Esq. who died March 31, 1808, at the age of sixty-eight, was a gentleman of learning, science, and ingenuity. He was born in 1740, of humble, though respectable parents, who lived on their small estate at West Felton. He was taught to read by an old woman in the village, and that was the whole of his education; every other acquirement, which he afterwards possessed in so eminent a

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degree, was entirely his own. He was the eldest of seven children, all of whom he brought up to respectable professions, who might otherwise have drudged in servitude. From his father he received his little estate, almost swallowed up by mortgages and incumbrances, which he redeemed at a very early period of life by two voyages to the West Indies, and afterwards considerably increased by prudence and industry. Though he left scarcely any science untouched, his turn of mind was principally directed to antiquities, natural philosophy, music, mechanics, and planting. Of the first he has left a large collection of manuscripts; historical observations relating to Shropshire and the Welsh borders; on Druidical reliques, and Stonehenge; tracing many traditional vulgar errors from the remote ages of superstition. In mechanics he left a set of philosophical and musical instruments made by his own hands, among which are a large reflecting telescope, a solar and lucernal microscope, and a fine organ, on a new principle; an electrical machine, on the plan of Dr. Franklin; and just before his death he projected an orrery to shew the satellites on a new method. In planting, he has clothed the country round him with forest and fruit trees, all raised and grafted with his own hands; and his little villa (which, from his fondness for planting, he called "The Nursery") is laid out with much taste and rural elegance. He was well versed in the Hebrew, Anglo-Saxon, British, and Latin tongues, and had some knowledge of the Greek. His reading was very extensive and his application intense. To the very last day of his life he constantly rose at five every morning. Though he lived to a fair age, it was the opinion of the neighbouring medical men, that his excessive and laborious industry of body and mind brought on his decay prematurely. He never appeared as an author; but we have been informed by his son, that though he ordered that none of his works be published, his library and collection should always be open to the inspection of the curious, as it was during his life, and that any information from his manuscripts

scripts should be at their service. In points of religion he never interfered, always alledging, that a man's religion was a matter between himself and God alone; it is believed he lived and died in the Unitarian creed; but, when he spoke of any sect, it was always with mildness, except where he thought they made religion a cloke for hypocrisy. He was remarkable for his plainness of dress, yet his person always appeared dignified and gentlemanlike. In his youth he was a close friend of the poet Shenstone, to whose memory he was always much attached. His mind was vigorous, and his memory retentive; both of which remained unimpaired to the last hour of his life. He was remarkably communicative and sociable, full of facetious anecdote, which he had a singularly agreeable manner of imparting. Though this eulogy be dictated from the testimony of a friend,* there is no reader who knew the subject of it but will be aware of its truth, and will remember him with affection and esteem.

WHITTINGTON CASTLE, near Oswestry, is an extremely picturesque ruin, at present consisting of the remains of eight very massy towers with intermediate walls. The towers are not regularly placed, except four at the angles of the keep, at the west corner of which are two, very close together, with steps between, as if for an entrance. Here there must have been a drawbridge over the moat, as there also was at the east gateway, between two towers which are still entire, and are inhabited as a farm-house, in the south of which is the court-room of the manor, of which William Lloyd, of Aston, Esq. is the lord. On the whole of the east side is a lake, which washes the very walls of the castle, now finely fringed with ivy and shaded with large old trees. In the interior, on and around a high mount, are some extremely tall wych elms and ash trees, perhaps the finest in Shropshire. A running brook still occupies part of the moat. The keep is now used for a garden, on digging in which, all over at an even depth was

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* Mr. Parkes, in *Gent. Mag.* 1808.

found a pavement; at its north corner is a deep well. The gateway toward the village, with the old towers in the back ground, present a highly interesting appearance. One very large tower, used many years as a dove-house, was lately taken down to repair the habitable part of the castle. In the year 1796, in digging a grave in the place where the porch of Whittington Church once stood, there were discovered the remains of a very strong oak coffin, three inches thick, containing probably bones of one of the Fitz-Guarines. In the year 1797, on removing some rubbish in a part of the ruins, three curious bottles were found, of a depressed form, bearing an appearance of having been highly gilt: they are preserved in the collection of Mr. Dovaston, who is inclined to conclude that their rich and brilliant appearance is the effect of a kind of rust which glass acquires by being buried long in the earth. In clearing the bottom of one of the old towers very lately, there were found some huge iron fetters, a gyve of ponderous size, and an astonishing quantity of the heads and antlers of deer.

According to the bards, this place was once the property of Tudor Trevor, a British nobleman, who lived in the year 924. After the Conquest it was held by Roger de Montgomery, and, being forfeited by his son Robert, it was bestowed on William, a sister's son of Pain Peverell, whose daughter Mellet was the fair object of contention to the warlike youths of the time. Peverell declared his resolution of giving her in marriage, with Whittington Castle for a dowry, to him who should display the greatest prowess at a tilting match. Peverell's castle in the Peak of Derbyshire was the place appointed for the combat. Among the knights who repaired thither was Guarine de Metz, of the house of Lorraine, Lord of Alberbury and sheriff of Shropshire. He entered the lists with his "silver shelde, and a proude pcock upon his heaulme creste," overthrew his rivals, carried off his fair prize, and received the castle of Whittington for her dower. His posterity continued lords of this place for near four hundred years, every heir, for nine descents, preserving

preserving the Christian name of Fulke, to which was added the memorable appellation of Fitz-Guarine.*

Of the history of this noble family our limits do not allow us to present even an epitome, which we the more regret as the following characteristic incidents serve to shew how interesting it is. Fulke, son of Guarine, displayed the high spirit of his race in a quarrel with King John when prince, whom he greatly offended by breaking his head with a chess-board, or perhaps by breaking a chess-board upon his thick head. In revenge probably for this, John, when he came to the crown, gave away Whittington Castle from Fulke's son, who thereupon retired to France: he there rendered himself so renowned, that a French romance was composed on the actions of himself and his progenitors, and translated into English under the title of "*Gestes of Guarine and his sonnes.*"† Coming over during his exile to Windsor, where the king was hunting, he in disguise took him to a tent where his friends were before posted, and forced him to consent to his pardon. No sooner, however, was John out his power than he retracted, and obliged Fulke once more to leave the kingdom. He was at length restored to his possessions, but again fell into a quarrel with John, and was one of the glorious band who compelled that monarch to sign the Great Charter. In the succeeding reign he obtained a confirmation of his estates and secured them to his posterity. In 1419, this illustrious race became extinct, and the manor, after various transfers in succeeding ages, devolved to William Albany, citizen of London, whose great grand-daughter and sole heirress, married Thomas Lloyd, of Aston, Esq. the father of the present possessor.

The castle, from its position on the frontier of Wales, and from the warlike spirit of its lords, was in feudal times a place of great consequence, and, like other border fortresses, alter-

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* Pennant's Wales, Vol. I. p. 323. Phillips's Hist. Shrewsbury, 231.

† Gough's Camden, III. 36. Pennant's Wales, ut sup. Much of the romance is preserved in Leland's Collectanea, p. 236.

nately the scene of alarm and of festivity. Its ancient and present state is thus justly and poetically described by John F. M. Dovaston, Esq. in one of his legendary ballads yet in manuscript, with a sight of which we were favoured by a friend of his :—

“ In ancient days of high renown,
 Not always did yon castle frown
 With ivy-crested brow ;
 Nor were its walls with moss embrown'd,
 Nor hung the lanky weeds around,
 That fringe its ruins now.
 Other hangings deck'd the wall
 Where now the nodding foxgloves tall
 Their spotty hoods unfold ;
 Harebells there with bugloss vie,
 And gillyflowers of yellow dye,
 Seem now to musing Fancy's eye
 To mock the mimic tapestry
 That flaunted there of old.

Other guests than yon lone bird,
 And other music here was heard,
 In times of better days ;
 Festive revelry went round,
 The board with blushing goblets crown'd,
 And costly carpets clad the ground
 Where now yon cattle graze :
 Days were those of splendour high,
 Days of hospitality,
 When to his rich domain,
 Welcom'd many a crested knight,
 Welcom'd many a lady bright,
 Fitz-Guarine of Lorraine.—

Sires were his from days of yore
 That all the same distinction bore
 Of title and of name ;
 A name that Valour's blazon'd blade
 In feats of chivalry had made
 The favourite of Fame.
 He oft in border battle sped, &c. &c. &c.”

KNOCKIN

KNOCKIN CASTLE,* in the hundred of Oswestry, was built by Lord L'Estrange, the first of whose family was Guy L'Estrange (Guido Extraneus) a younger son of the Duke of Bretagne. He had three sons, Guy, Hamon, and John, all of whom held lands in Shropshire by gift from Henry the Second. The younger Guy was sheriff of this county from the sixth of Henry the Second to the eleventh of Henry the Second, and again from the seventeenth of Henry the Second to the twenty-fifth of Henry the Second. Ralph, his son, gave (the first of Richard the First) the chapel of Knockin to the canons of Haghmond. He left no issue, and his three sisters became his co-heiresses. John, grandson of Guy, in the thirty-third of Henry the Third, procured a market for the town on a Tuesday, and a fair on the eve-day and day after the anniversary of the decollation of St. John the Baptist. Madoc, who was at the head of an insurrection against the king's officers in North Wales, marched against the Lord Strange and defeated him at Knockin. The male line of the family failed in John Le Strange, who died in the seventeenth of Edward the Fourth, leaving an only daughter, Joan, who married George, son and heir of Thomas Stanley, who was created Earl of Derby by Henry the Seventh. The castle was first demolished in the civil wars in the reign of King John, and repaired by John Le Strange in the third of Henry the Third. The title of Knockin is still kept up, though the family is extinct, the eldest son in the Derby family being styled Lord Strange.† At present there is scarcely a vestige of the castle remaining. The property having been intrusted to improper hands, the stones have been worked up to build the churchyard walls, and a bridge over the brook: a few years ago a quantity of them was carried away and broken to

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* The word Knockin was anciently written Cnukyn, but we can neither find, nor form any probable conjecture respecting its derivation. There is no account of it in Domesday book, nor in any of the British chronicles before the Conquest.

† MS. *penes nos.*

mend the roads. The keep may still be seen; it has a few straggling fir trees upon it. The town has now neither market nor fair.

There is a singular story relating to this castle narrated by Phillips,* on the authority of Mr. Gough's manuscript account of Middle and its neighbourhood.—It is without date:

“One Thomas Elkes, being guardian to his eldest brother's child, who was young and stood in his way to a considerable estate, to remove the child he hired a poor boy to entice him into a corn-field to get flowers. Elkes met the two children in the field, sent the poor boy home, took his nephew in his arms to the further end of the field, where he had placed a tub of water, into which putting the child's head, he left it there. The child being missed and enquiry made after him, the poor boy told how he was hired and where he had left him, where, upon search, he was found dead. Elkes fled and took the road to London. The neighbours sent two horsemen in pursuit, who, riding along the road near South Mims in Hertfordshire, saw two ravens sitting on a cock of hay, making an unusual noise and pulling the hay about with their beaks; upon which they alighted, and found Elkes asleep under the hay: he confessed that these two ravens had followed him from the time he did the fact. He was brought to Shrewsbury, tried, condemned, and hung in chains on Knockin Heath.”

MIDDLE.—The Lords Le Strange held Middle by the service of one knight's fee under the Fitz-Alans, earls and lords of Cloane (Clun). In the twentieth of Edward the First a quo warranto against John Le Strange de Infangthef free warren and wayff, in the manors of Ness, Kington, and Middle, who pleads a grant of free warren in Middle, and the other liberties of Ness and Kington he pleads by prescription, which the jurors allowed. This John levied a fine, the twenty-seventh of Edward the First, whereby John de Wallascote de Criddon was interested in the manor. The Lord John Le Strange, his son, obtained licence

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* History of Shrewsbury, Appendix, p. 233.

to make a castle of his house at Middle, which lay less exposed to the incursions of the Welsh than his castles of Knockin and Ruyton, which often felt the fury of that people. In the third of Edward the Third he had a grant of free warren, the view of frankpledge and waif in this manor. In the sixteenth of Edward the Third, John Le Strange, and in the forty-eighth of Edward the Third, Roger Le Strange, levied fines of the manor of Middle. A settlement made by Richard Le Strange may be found in the Chancery rolls, the eighteenth of Henry the Sixth. In the sixth of Edward the Fourth Roger Kynaston de Middle, Esq. late sheriff of Shropshire, obtained the king's general pardon. In the thirteenth of Edward the Fourth John Molineaux died seized of Middle. In the thirty-ninth of Elizabeth the queen gives licence to Thomas Barnston, Gent. and Elizabeth, his wife, to sell lands in Middle to Robert Cherleton and his heirs.

As to the present state of Middle, it is merely a straggling hamlet, of very little thoroughfare, pleasantly situated on a hill, with a few ruins, and one prominent tower of the castle.*

While Lord Strange was Lord of Middle he lived there part of the year, and the other part at Knockin Castle; but when these lordships came into the family of the Earl of Derby, there was a constable or castle-keeper appointed for the Castle of Middle. Gough, in his manuscript history of Middle, gives the names of several of these keepers: at length we come to that of Sir Roger Kynaston, of Hordley, made keeper by commission, and after him his youngest son Humphrey Kynaston, who, from his dissolute and riotous manner of life, was surnamed *The Wild*. He had two wives, but of so low parentage that they would lay claim to any coat of arms, as appears by the card of the Kynastons' arms. There is a tradition that his first wife

* Mr. Dovaston has in his collection a copy of the manuscripts of Mr. Gough of Middle (called in this country Gough's History of Middle, but more talked of than read) containing some strange anecdotes in quaint, but not unpleasing language; with here and there some trite latin quotations, very incorrectly quoted and oddly translated.

wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Meredith ap Howel ap Morice, of Oswestry, and another that she was Margaret, daughter of William Griffith, of Oswestry, called Coch-William, or *The Red*; and that his second wife was by name Isabella. (Kynaston's will bears date 1534). No record appears of any children he ever had. The enormous debts he contracted by his imprudent life and conduct caused him to be declared an outlaw; upon which he fled from Middle Castle, which he had by neglect suffered to fall to ruins, and sheltered himself in a cave in the west point of Nescliffe Rock, called to this day Kynaston's Cave, and shewn to travellers by a facetious old dame who inhabits it, and entertains visitors with strange romantic tales relative to the adventures and exploits of her great predecessor.

The cave is reached by a very high flight of steps, and is in that part of the rock which is quite perpendicular: close beneath is a fine thick wood of oak and birch, over which it commands a very extensive prospect to the west, bounded by the Welsh mountains. From this point, perhaps, the majestic Breidden mountains are seen to most advantage, with the Rivers Severn and Vyrnwy gleaming in the sun beneath. The cave is spacious and even comfortable, being divided into two rooms by a strong pillar of the rock, upon which is carved H. K. 1564. The place now containing the old dame's bed was the stall of the outlaw's celebrated horse, whom the vulgar to this day hereabouts believe to have been the Devil. This horse was turned to graze in the neighbouring fields, and, on his master's whistling, would instantly ascend the steps of the cave; it would also kneel and do various tricks at command.—All this may be very possible from the well known docility of the horse; and it must be remembered, and is very apparent, that the steps to the cave were then more than twice the present width, and have been since cut away for building-stones, on the precipice side. In all his depredatory adventures he seems to have regarded a sort of justice; for what he took from the rich he gave freely to the poor, by whom he was as much beloved, as he was dreaded by
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the wealthy. On the road, if he saw a cart with one horse and another with three, he made them equal, by taking the fore horse from the latter and hooking it to the former. Most of the adventures ascribed to him, whether probable or improbable, seem to have been more dictated by whim than a desire of plunder. He had a plentiful supply of hay, corn, and other necessities from the people around; the rich paying him tribute through fear, and the poor from gratitude.

The place on Dovaston Common, called *Kynaston's Horse-Leap* to this day, received that name from the following circumstance:—Kynaston having been observed to go over Montford Bridge to Shrewsbury, the sheriff, intending to take him, caused one of the divisions of the bridge (which was then formed of planks laid upon stone pillars) to be taken up, and placed a quantity of men in ambush. When Kynaston had advanced on the bridge, the men came forth and blocked up his retreat, upon which he put spurs to his horse, who bore him safely over the wide breach, and brought him to his cave at Nescliffe:—though some say the horse leaped into the Severn and carried him across. The length of this leap was afterwards measured on the common near the village of Dovaston, with an H cut at one end, and a K at the other. There are many people in the village now living who remember these letters; but the common has since been enclosed, and the initials ploughed up, though there was sixpence a year left to keep them open, “as long (says the old woman of the cave) as the sun shines or the water runs.”—The letters were an ell long, a spade's graffe wide, and a spade deep, and were generally cleansed annually by order of Mr. Kynaston of Kingtón (as honest Gough says, in his quaint, though not displeasing account of Middle). Frequent applications have been made to the old people about Dovaston for the distance of the letters, but no accurate account could be obtained:—the vulgar are so fond of the marvellous that they ever enlarge, and scruple not to say forty yards; if so, the bridge planks must have been of an enormous length, and trees, as well as men
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and horses, must have much degenerated: probably they have heard of forty feet, which is a tolerably decent leap for a modern fox-hunter, even though stimulated with a sheriff at his back. After Wild Humphrey's time, Middle Castle was deserted and suffered to go to ruin.—Humphrey was never taken, but died, as tradition says, in his cave.

ELLESMERE

has its name from the mere or great lake that washes it. There are several such in the neighbourhood, but this being the largest, the place is thence called Aelsmere, or the principal mere: “Ael in compositione præstantiam vel plenitudinem denotat: *mere* stagnum quod instar maris exigui se præbet;” though some will have it derived from the abundance of eels in that water. In the Confessor's time, “Edwinus comes tenuit Ellesmeles;” which in Domesday Earl Roger held. In the year 1177, “The king (Henry the Second, of course) went to Oxford,” and, among other grants, there is one to David, the son of Owen, “de North Wales terram de Ellesmar.” Owen having married the King of England's sister, Robert Lupus held “Manerium de Ellesmar per balivum Johannis regis.” In the sixth of John the King gave the castle and manor of Ellesmere in frank-marriage with his daughter Joan to Llewellyn, Prince of North Wales; but in the tenth of John, four years afterwards, Barth. Turoc, the governor, was commanded on his allegiance to put the place into the possession of William Earl of Salisbury, the king's brother, and Thomas de Erdyngton “quia volumus quod illud custodiant: teste meipso apud Warwick 18 die Decembris:” so that the king reserved the disposal of the castle, this being a frontier town and of some importance to the marches, and consequently not to be disposed of to, or be left entirely in the power of the Prince of Wales, who we may suppose had only the rents and profits arising from the tenants.

In the fourth of Henry the Third Roger Le Strange yielded up to the king the inheritance of the manors of Colemere and Hampton, and received in consideration of the same the said manors again, "*cum castro et hundredo de Ellesmar ad vitam tantum.*" In the twenty-first of Henry the Third John Le Strange was governor of this castle. In the twenty-fifth of Henry the Third, David, son of Llewellyn, late Prince of Wales, by his charter in writing surrendered up Ellesmere to the crown of England, after which we hear no more of its being in the hands of the Welsh.

The continual skirmishes between the English and Welsh made the tenure of Ellesmere very precarious; and though Henry the Second and King John, being embroiled in foreign wars, gave this town and castle in dower, the first with a sister, and the latter with a natural daughter, by Agatha de Ferrars, the Earl of Derby's daughter, in order to conciliate the ancient animosities of both people—yet, upon the slightest appearance of a rupture, these kings might, and did resume at pleasure, or gave what recompences they thought fit upon the seizure, and such as the Princes of Wales, holding upon their good behaviour, were glad to receive.

In the thirty-seventh of Henry the Third the manor and hundred of Ellesmere were committed to John de Grey, paying a fine of ten shillings a year. In the forty-third of Henry the Third Peter Monfort was governor of this castle. In the fifty-first of Henry the Third the manor, castle, and hundred were granted to Hamon Le Strange and his heirs, "*donec sibi et hæredibus provisum erat de escheatis ad c. librarum per annum.*" This Hamon was a younger son of the first Lord John Le Strange, of Knockin. In the fourteenth of Edward the Second Oliver de Ingleham, who adhered so firmly to the king upon the insurrection of the Earl of Lancaster and other lords, was governor of this castle. In the third of Edward the Third a writ was issued to see after the encroachments in this manor, and settle the boundaries, which being done, the king gave the castle

castle of Ellesmere, with the hamlets of Colmore and Hampton, to the Lord Eubule Le Strange, in fee; who dying, left the same to Roger Le Strange de Knockin, sen. his cousin, and next heir. Richard, his son and heir, who was found to be cousin and heir to Philippa, Duchess of York, his mother's sister, died the twenty-seventh of Henry the Sixth, and, after his death, Elizabeth, his relict, married Roger Kynaston, Esq. her dower being the manors of Nesse, Strange, Kinton, Colmore, hamlet of Hampton, hamlet of Knockin, "*castrum et Dominium de Ellesmar,*" and the castle of Middle. John, son of Richard, died the seventeenth of Edward the Fourth, having issue Joan, his sole daughter and heir, married to George, son and heir apparent to Thomas Stanley, the first Earl of Derby of that name, in whose family it rested for four descents, when William, Earl of Derby, had licence, the forty-second of Elizabeth, to make an alienation of the manor of Ellesmere to Richard Spencer, Esq. and Edward Savage, who the subsequent year obtained the Queen's pardon for the alienation, "*quam fecère Thomæ Egerton militi, custodi magni sigilli,*" afterwards Lord Chancellor and created Baron of Ellesmere.

In the sixth of James George Onslow Esq. alienated the manor of St. John of Jerusalem "*infra villam et parochiam de Ellesmere*" to Sir Thomas Egerton, Lord Ellesmere. The most ancient freehold of the manor was Ockley or Ottley, the noble and ancient seat of the Kynastons, of which there have been several knights, who have borne the highest offices that gentlemen in a private capacity are capable of; particularly the ingenious and learned Francis Kynaston, Esq. Knight of the body of Charles the First, famous for his translation of Chaucer's *Troilus and Cressida* into Latin.

By Stat. 27, Henry the Eighth, Ellesmere, "*cum membris,*" was united to the hundred of Pimhill. In the fortieth of Elizabeth the Queen gave a licence to Sir Edward Kynaston, Knt. to keep a market on Tuesday, and a fair.* But the account given by

* MS. *pence nos.*

by Leland of this town is that it had four streets and three fairs, and no market. None of the ruins of the castle are left; but the eminence on which the keep stood discovers that it has been an ancient fort. It is a neat clean town, and rendered exceedingly beautiful by the fine wood-fringed lake which comes close to its walls: it has a good market, the principal articles of which are apples, flax, and stockings; and the chief trade of the town consists in malting and tanning.

The Church of Ellesmere is a spacious but irregular cruciform building. In the centre is a handsome square tower adorned with pinnacles. The tracery of the great eastern window is highly beautiful. In a chapel south of the chancel is an ancient tomb of the Kynastons of Hordley. The ceiling of this part is highly enriched with gothic fret work. The interior of this venerable church is miserably deformed by galleries and mean pews.

WHITCHURCH

is a handsome market town on the Chester road from Shrewsbury. It is seated on an acclivity, at the top of which stands the church commanding an extensive view of the environs and the distant country. It is a very handsome modern structure, having been erected in 1722. Two recumbent stone figures are preserved from the ruins of the old church; one of which represents the redoubtable John Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury and marshal of the realm of France in the reign of Henry the Sixth. The other is the tomb of Christopher Talbot, fourth son of John Talbot, second Earl of Shrewsbury. He was rector of Whitchurch and archdeacon of Chester. This rectory is one of the richest in the county.

Part of the old walls of the castle of Whitchurch was standing in 1760, on the castle-hill, on the side next the mill, just above the brook that now runs under what is called the Lock-up house. This town is remarkable as having been the birth-place or residence of several eminent men, among whom was Nicholas Barnard, chaplain to Archbishop Usher, and afterwards Dean of Ardagh.

Ardagh. He was the author of several books and pamphlets, and suffered much in Ireland, for his steady attachment to his religious principles. He died in the year 1661, and was buried at this place.* Abraham Whelock, a person of great learning, and noted as a linguist of distinguished abilities also was born in this town. He was fellow of Clare Hall Cambridge, Library-Keeper, Arabic Professor, and minister of St. Sepulchre's. He was the author of a Persian translation of the New Testament, which great task he undertook under the pious hope that in time it might open the way for the conversion of the natives of Persia to christianity. Mr. Whelock was one of Dr. Brian Walton's assistants in the compilation of that prelate's polyglot bible. He also published a decent edition of the works of venerable Bede. He died in 1654.† Whitchurch has an excellent free-school, at which many persons of eminence have had their grammar learning. There are also meeting-houses for protestant dissenters, a charity school for children of both sexes, and six almshouses for women, who are each allowed four guineas per annum. These houses were endowed by Mr. Samuel Higginson. This town is much resorted to during the horse-races, which are frequently held there. According to the census in 1801, the population amounted to 921 houses, and 4,515 inhabitants, which, as there is no particularly flourishing trade here, have not much increased since that period.

About nine miles south of Whitchurch is HAWKSTONE PARK, long the residence of the ancient and justly respected family of the Hills; a spot celebrated for its extraordinary combination of natural and artificial beauties. A full description of them would require a space much more ample than what we can allow ourselves, but as they constitute one of the most attractive features of the county, it may be proper to go into some detail in delineating them.

The mansion is an elegant modern edifice, situated in a beautiful slope on the north side of a romantic hill. The date of its erection is uncertain, but the addition of two wings, and many other

* Mag. Brit. iv. p. 619

† Mag. Brit. *ubi supra*.

other improvements, were made by Sir Rowland Hill bart. the father of the present possessor. To the west is a fine portico, the pillars of which, being of the composite order, are very lofty and graceful. The interior of the house corresponds with its external beauty. Of its apartments, the saloon and chapel are particularly worthy of observation. In the cieling of the chapel is an emblematical painting of the Reformation, which represents Truth appealing to Time for bringing her to light, and Falsehood flying away affrighted. The saloon, a spacious and elegant room, is adorned with some valuable paintings among which is, "the Siege of Namur," the five principal characters in which were taken from the life: namely, King William, the Elector of Bavaria, the Duke of Marlborough, Count Cohorn, and the Right Hon. Richard Hill, great uncle to the present Sir John Hill. From the house an easy ascent through the verge of a wilderness of lofty trees, chiefly beeches, leads to the *Summer-House*, which is a neat octagonal structure of free-stone. The interior is decorated with paintings in fresco, representing the four seasons, &c. This spot commands a prospect of a grand piece of water with some verdant meadows, and a distant view of the Broxton Hills and Delamere Forest in Cheshire. An attempt has been made to enliven the scene by the erection of a new farm-house, among the trees by the water side, which is made to resemble an abbey or priory; but such deceptions are easily discovered, and destroy the effect they are intended to produce. Under the summer-house is a large and spacious cold bath.

A beautiful lawn, interspersed with trees, leads hence to the verge of a deep valley, called the *gulf*, along which is a rising walk on the side of a rock agreeably clothed on each side with shrubs and trees, which at intervals admit a view of the water beyond. This path leads at length to a stupendous cliff in the rock, which had lain concealed for ages, when Sir Richard Hill, some years before his decease, caused the earth, rubbish, and leaves, to be cleared away. It was found that the two sides

of the rock so nearly corresponded with each other that they appeared to have been once united, and to have been separated by some violent concussion of the earth. Along the bottom of this stupendous cliff the road gradually ascends to a passage, from whence all light is totally excluded, for nearly one hundred yards. This terminates in the *Grotto*, which is a vast cave supported by pillars hewn in the solid stone. In the midst there is a spacious cave, curiously beset with costly shells, interspersed with petrifications and fossils of great variety. The light thrown on them through small windows of painted glass produces a rich and beautiful effect. In a recess in the grotto there was formerly placed a fine wax figure, representing the ancestor of a nobleman, a neighbour of Sir Richard Hill, who made him a present of it. This figure was so contrived as to be concealed from view on entering, but when the spectators had remained some time, it gradually turned its head towards them, and held in its hand a characteristic inscription for their perusal. A colonnade of rude pillars leads through a western door to the verge of a precipice, from whence are seen the towering oaks, over-hung with huge rocks that are tinged with veins of copper, or hoary with age. This rugged and broken fore-ground contrasts finely with the green lawn, the wood, the water, and the distant country, forming one of the most varied scenes that the fancy of a painter could compose. Descending the grotto hill by a flight of steps cut out of the stones, the way winds round this detached mass of free-stone, and presents at every point fresh objects of admiration.

Among the enormous shelves which over-hang it, there is a place cut through the rock, with two seats opposite each other, called the *vis-à-vis*. Many persons of note, both Englishmen and foreigners, have testified their admiration of these scenes; among the latter General Paoli declared that in all his travels he had seen no prospect which had afforded him so much delight. The point of view which particularly attracted his attention has since been distinguished by the name of *Paoli's point*.

Leaving

Leaving the grotto hill, and proceeding along some rugged and grotesque cliffs the next object of curiosity is a natural cave, called the *Retreat*, containing an automaton of a hermit sitting at a table, on which are a scull, an hour-glass, a book, and a pair of spectacles. This machine is made to answer questions, and occasionally to recite some verses which are inscribed under his mouth. Quitting this place the spectator is conducted to a singular crag of a pyramidal form, finely clad with trees and ivy, called the *Fox's knob*, because a fox, unkennelled there, leapt from it into the valley beneath. The fall occasioned his death, as well as that of some of the dogs which followed him. There is a sinuous perforation in the rock, called St Francis's cave, the entrance to which is under the fantastic roots of an old yew tree. After passing through a certain distance in total darkness, the spectator, on emerging on the other side, is surprised with a most magnificent prospect over the tops of the trees, which from this elevation do not intercept the sight. The transition from the gloom of midnight to the full blaze of day is truly enchanting, and the strangers who visit the cave are generally tempted to pass through it repeatedly, in order to enjoy the full effect of the contrast.

One of the most romantic parts of the domain is an ascent by a very narrow path between two steep rugged rocks of white free-stone, at the entrance of which is a finger-post inscribed on one side, "To a scene in Switzerland," and on the other "au pont Suisse." This is an apparently slight but a very strong and safe bridge, thrown over a dark yawning gulf. The way leads over it, and down into another deep and solemn glen or cleft dividing two high and abrupt rocks, which had remained almost inaccessible, until a communication had been formed between them by means of the Swiss bridge. Travellers who have visited Switzerland have acknowledged the resemblance between this scene and some of the wild picturesque landscapes in the Grisons.

The terrace is a most agreeable walk, covered with the finest

verdure and lined on each side with various sorts of forest trees, through which there are spaces at intervals which open on the distant prospects. On a spot of ground near the highest part of the terrace is a grand column or *obelisk* built of white free-stone. Its height is about one hundred and twelve feet. A winding stair-case within this column leads to an open gallery round its capital, from whence is seen a grand and magnificent prospect extending in a clear day to a range which comprises twelve, or as some say, thirteen counties, namely Shropshire, Cheshire, Staffordshire, Derbyshire, Lancashire, Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Flintshire, Denbighshire, Montgomeryshire, Merionethshire, Radnorshire, and Blackstone-edge in Yorkshire. The summit is crowned with a statue of Sir Rowland Hill, Knt. Lord Mayor of London in the second year of Edward the Sixth, A. D. 1549 and 1550, being the first protestant who filled that high office. The statue, a copy from an ancient monument, which before the fire of London stood in the church of St. Stephens Walbrook, represents the venerable man in the habiliments of his office, holding a copy of magna charta in his hand. An inscription on the pedestal sets forth that the pillar was erected by Sir Richard Hill, chiefly from motives of respect to the memory of that truly great and good man. It contains a sketch of his life, and a justly merited eulogy on his public spirit, his munificent charities, and his private virtues.

On a high projection to the south west side of the terrace stands the *Tower*, which commands a view of the distant town of Shrewsbury, of the Wrekin, and the Stretton hills. Ranging westward are seen the grand outline of the Welsh hills, particularly that magnificent group rising boldly from the plain of Salop, the Breidden,* Cefn y Castell, and Moel y Gofa, the former of which

* Breidden, or as it is spelt by the British, Craig ap Wridden, though actually in Wales, is not foreign to the *Beauties* of Shropshire.

The convivial society of Breidennites meet here annually on a day in June

which is easily distinguishable by the pillar it bears in honour of Lord Rodney.

About a mile from the tower is a beautiful and romantic hanging wood, called the *Bury walls*. Here are the remains of a Roman camp, encompassing about twenty acres of high ground, and secured by an inaccessible rock on all sides but one, which is defended by a triple entrenchment. Coins and armour have formerly been found here. From these heights a beautiful and retired walk leads among trees and rocks down to the *tower glen*, into which is a descent by a narrow path with many rude steps. On each hand is a range of most grotesque rocks, interspersed with large trees and underwood. On reaching the end of this sequestered dingle there is a seat from which the eye is suddenly caught by a charming expanse of lawn, hill, wood, and water. In a rock within the glen is an extraordinary cavern, said to have been the hiding-place of an ancestor of the Hill family in the civil wars. Near it is an urn which bears an inscription, purporting that it was erected by Sir Richard Hill, Bart. in 1784, as a token of affection to the memory of his much respected ancestor, Rowland Hill, of Hawkstone, Esq. a gentleman

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of

or July. The last year, 1810, was their twenty-first. They consist of a large though select party of ladies and gentlemen, chiefly Salopians; from whom are annually elected—a president, who finds dinner, wine, &c. and acts as captain of the day, with a branch of oak in his hat: he is also vice-president the succeeding year;—a lady of the hill, who wears laurel and dances with the president; a Poet *Ferneat*, who annually supplies some new song, ode, or recitation, and is crowned by the lady with *fern*;—and a recorder, who enters in a journal all proceedings, records, poetry &c.—They meet at one o'clock at dinner near the well in the valley, and after dinner adjourn to the pillar on the summit of the mountain, where the glass, song, and dance go merrily round: the general glee and chorus are sung, and the annual composition of their poets recited; and the literary banquet is enriched with many humorous and pathetic tales. All strangers are admitted as guests for that day, but not as members till introduced by some member to the president, and by him to the society; all party and political toasts are excluded, and nothing encouraged but what is conducive to social festivity and friendship. This society has no connection with that of the commemoration of Rodney on the same hill.

of great wisdom, piety, and charity, who, being a royalist, hid himself in this glen during the troubles of Charles the First's reign. He was discovered and imprisoned in the adjacent castle, commonly called Red Castle, whilst his house was pillaged and ransacked by the parliament forces. The castle itself was soon afterwards demolished. His son, Rowland Hill, Esq. coming to his assistance, also suffered much in the same cause.

Red castle, to which the inscription alludes, is now a heap of ruins. Its site is remarkably strong and imposing, being the summit of a lofty hill consisting chiefly of red rock, covered on every side with large trees and thick wood. Among these the broken walls and turrets of the castle appear with fine effect. The distant view comprehends a fine extent of rich and beautiful country.

The erection of this castle is, by Dugdale and other learned antiquaries, dated from a licence granted by Henry the Third to Henry de Aldithle*, or Audley; but from an ancient manuscript in the Audley family it appears to have had a much earlier origin. It is there stated that Maud, wife of William the Conqueror, gave to John de Audley and to his heirs the lands about Red Castle, in the county of Salop, for certain services done by him to the state. One of the most singular parts of this hill is an excavation called the Giants' Well, the circular walls of which, above the rock in which it is formed, are of immense thickness. Near this place is a passage cut through the solid rock, at the end of which is placed the figure of a lion, with some bones scattered on the ground near him. The deception at first view produces a striking effect on the spectator.

In one of the valleys near the Red Castle hill is placed a low building of sticks and reeds, constructed on a model taken from the prints in Captain Cook's voyage. The interior is fitted up in a correspondent manner, and furnished with bows, arrows, horns of animals, idols, masks, caps of red feathers, shell-necklaces, and two canoes. This spot is called a *Scene* in Otaheite.

Several

* Gough's Camden, III. 30.

Several plants from that island grow at the door of the dwelling, and give it a characteristic appearance. There is a fine walk round the top of the valley, from which the scene is beheld to great advantage.

One of the beauties of the park is a magnificent piece of water, in resemblance of a wide navigable river, extending about two miles in length, and in some parts near one hundred yards in breadth, and forming the boundary of the park to the north and west. One end of this artificial lake is concealed by a thick wood near the road to Prees and Whitchurch, and the other end loses itself behind Red Castle Hill, in the middle of a fine fertile valley. In sailing along it, many of the picturesque and romantic scenes, above described, open on the view, and assume fresh loveliness at every change of position.

It would be improper to omit noticing a late addition to the curiosities of Hawkstone, called *Neptune's Whim*. The way to it is through a delightful plantation, at the entrance of which are two large whale-bones, bearing the following inscription:—

Here friend of taste thy course begin,
And nature's charms admire;
Where varied landscapes feast the eye,
The feet forget to tire.

The “Whim,” or cottage, is built in the style of the houses in North Holland, with a windmill on the opposite bank, painted exactly after the Dutch manner. The interior is ornamented with a number of Swiss prints and other curiosities. Behind it, at the river head, is a fine colossal statue of Neptune, in hewn stone, holding an urn under the arm, from which the water falls over some broken pieces of rock. There are figures of Nereids below, which throw up the stream to a considerable height. Within the compass of Neptune's demesne is a spot called Amphitrite's flower-garden, in the middle of which, during summer, a curious tent is pitched, which was brought by Colonel (now General) Hill, nephew of the late Sir Richard, and son of Sir

John Hill, when he returned from Egypt. Over a door is the following inscription:—"This tent was brought by Colonel Hill from Egypt to England. It originally belonged to the famous Murad Bey; was taken at the battle of the Pyramids by the French, and taken from the French when Grand Cairo surrendered to the English, 25th of June, 1801. Sir Sidney Smith assured Colonel Hill it was the same tent in which the convention of El Arish was signed."

The description of this unrivalled spot might still demand a space double to that which we have occupied, and even then would leave the subject unexhausted. We must therefore terminate this ramble by noticing the contiguous village of Weston, which stands pleasantly on an eminence, and has a neat little church. At the extremity of the village, and within the verge of the park, is Hawkstone Inn and Hotel, a very spacious and commodious house, with bowling-green, pleasure-grounds, &c. "There you may refresh yourself after your walk and ruminate on the scenes which you have with so much delight been viewing;" and if you choose to sojourn, you will be sure to experience every comfort which an inn can afford, and every attention which a host can pay.*

Hawkstone Park is greatly indebted for its improvements to the taste and munificence of the late Sir Richard Hill, Bart. whose name will long be remembered in its neighbourhood with reverence and affection, on account of his many public and private charities, and of his constant attention to the morals of the poor. This solid reputation will outlive the fame he acquired as a senator, as a magistrate, or even as a preacher and a champion in the cause of Calvinistic methodism. The war which he waged in the latter capacity against the whole host of Wesleyans, although

* We acknowledge ourselves indebted to "A Description of Hawkstone, by T. Rodenhurst," a little book written with a good deal of fire and fancy. It has gone through nine editions, and as it is in general request by all strangers visiting Hawkstone, we hope it will be continually reprinting with amendments.

though violent, did not impair the general benevolence of his character; and though he was censured by some persons for an affectation of religion on all occasions, and that he was somewhat acrimonious in his polemics, yet his practice kept pace with his devout professions. His brother, Sir John Hill, who succeeded to his title and estates, supports the dignity of the family in the true old English way, and has the happiness to see his numerous progeny rising to distinction in various departments of the state. Of his sons, The Hon. Francis Hill was Secretary of Legation at the court of Lisbon, and subsequently at Rio de Janeiro; and Lieutenant General Sir John Hill has supported the glory of the British arms through a succession of long and arduous campaigns.

WEM

is a parish and market town, about seven miles south of Whitchurch. It is pleasantly situated near the source of the river *Roden*, from whence Horſeley* infers that it is the site of the ancient *Rutumium*. It consists of one large open street, with a few smaller ones. The church, a rectory of the real value of about 500*l.* per annum, is a handsome structure, with a lofty tower steeple and a fine chancel.

On the attainder of Philip Howard, Earl of Arundel, in the reign of Elizabeth, the manor of Wem fell to the crown;† and James the Second disgraced himself and the title in conferring it on the infamous Jefferies, who had the estate, and was created Baron Wem. On the death of that execrated chancellor, the title and estate fell to his son, who shortly afterwards dying, the title became extinct. The free-school at this place was founded and endowed by the loyal and patriotic Sir Thomas Adams, who was born in this town in the year 1586. He was brought up a draper,‡ in London, but received a liberal education at Cambridge

* P. 418.

† Dug. Baron, I. 595, 596.

‡ Fuller's Worthies of England, Shropshire, p. 10, and the English Barons, Vol. II. 8vo. 1727, p. 21.

bridge university. In 1639 Mr. Adams was elected sheriff of London, on which he gave up his business and devoted his time entirely to the duties of his office, and the good, as he conceived, of the Commonwealth.* By his great diligence and perseverance he became so thoroughly master of every part of his duty, as a public citizen, that there were no honours which this great metropolis could confer which he did not receive. As president of St. Thomas's Hospital he exerted himself so effectually as to save that foundation from the ruin with which the injustice and fraud of one of the stewards had nearly involved it. He was often returned a burgess in Parliament, though his unvarying loyalty and the turbulent spirit of the times prevented his ever taking a seat in the great assembly of the nation. In 1645 he was elected Lord Mayor of London,† which office he filled with the greatest faithfulness and disinterestedness: he had, however, very high notions of prerogative, and on this account acquired the scoffing title of the Prerogative Lord Mayor.‡ Nor did his inflexible integrity to the unfortunate Charles escape the canting censure of the pseudo-saints of his day, who compared him to the wicked Ahaz, for breaking, as they said, his promise; though the author (an author, it must be confessed, not always to be depended upon) of *Gangrœna* asserts that he performed his promise most punctually and conscientiously.§ The enemies of Charles the First, who were then coming into power, thought proper to search his house in pursuit of that unhappy monarch, and finding that Adams was not easily to be moulded in a form exactly suitable to their purposes, sent him to the Tower, where he remained some time. He however persevered in his attachment to the royal cause, and is said to have carried his zeal so far as to make a remittance of ten thousand pounds to Charles the Second while in exile. On the eve of the

* Dr. Hardy's Ser. at Sir Thomas Adams's Funeral, &c. 4to. 1688, p. 36.

† Delaune's *Angliæ Metropolis*, 8vo. 1690, p. 237.

‡ Lilburn's *London's Liberties*.

§ *Gan. Part III.* pp. 179, 228.

the restoration he was deputed by the corporation of London to go with General Monk to Breda in Holland, to offer their congratulations to the king, and to attend him to England: he was then in his seventy-fourth year. Charles, though by no means noted for gratitude, remembered the services of his old friend and advanced him to the dignity of a baronet, a few days after his inauguration in the kingly functions. His munificence and charity, private as well as public, were exemplary. Besides establishing the free-school at Wem, he founded an Arabic professorship in the university of Cambridge, which afforded a pension* to the learned Abraham Wheelock. At the suggestion of this eminent scholar, who was also a native of Shropshire, Sir Thomas Adams was at the expense of printing the Persian gospels, and of dispersing them in the Eastern countries, with the intent, as he expressed it, of throwing a stone at the forehead of Mahomet. Though the part he had taken in the public troubles must have considerably impaired his property, yet the open stream of his benevolence flowed as freely as ever; he distributed his wealth with a liberal hand for the support of hospitals and the relief of the poor. Graceful in his person, amiable in his deportment, and eloquent in his discourse, he won the esteem and respect of all who knew him, attracting others to the paths of virtue by the brightness of his own example. His goodness, in the quaint but forcible language of his eulogist,† “was not only at his tongue’s, but his fingers’ ends.” In his last years he was afflicted by a most excruciating disorder, the stone, which he bore with a degree of fortitude consistent with his other virtues. He died on the 24th of February 1667, in the eighty-first year of his age.

Near this town was born in the year 1640 William Wycherley, an eminent comic writer. At fifteen years of age he was sent
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* Fuller’s History of the University of Cambridge since the Conquest, fol. 1655, p. 166, *sub. ann.* 1631-2.

† Dr. Hardy’s Funeral Sermon on Sir Thomas Adams, preached in the Church of St. Catherine Cree. p. 31.

to France, and resided some time on the banks of the Charente, where he was often admitted to the conversation of Madame de Montausier, one of the most accomplished ladies at the court of France. A little before the restoration of Charles the Second he became a gentleman commoner of Queen's college Oxford, and afterwards entered himself at the Middle Temple. Here he applied himself to the writing of comedies. His wit and gaiety rendered him a favourite at court as well as with the town. The Duchess of Cleveland, according to Dennis, admitted him to the last degree of intimacy. Through the influence of Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, he gained the patronage of the King, who shewed him peculiar attention during a severe illness, and conferred on him many favours. About this period of his life, being at Tunbridge, he was lounging in a bookseller's shop, when the Countess of Drogheda a young widow, rich, noble and beautiful, came to enquire for "The Plain Dealer." "The Plain Dealer, madam" replied the bookseller, "There he is for you," pushing Mr. Wycherley towards her. "Yes," said Wycherley, "This lady can bear plain dealing for she appears so accomplished, that what would be compliment to others would to her be plain dealing." "No truly sir," said the Countess, "I am not without my faults any more than the rest of my sex, and yet I love plain dealing, and am never more pleased with it than when it tells me of them." The lady and Wycherley fell into conversation, he waited upon her home, an intimacy ensued, and and shortly after their return to London he married her without acquainting the King. This disrespect, and his absence from court gained him Charles's displeasure. His marriage too proved unhappy, the countess was jealous of him to distraction, and could not endure him to be out of her sight. She however made some amends for these caprices by dying within a reasonable time; but his title to her fortune was disputed; a law-suit ensued which ruined his finances and he was thrown into prison. Here he languished seven years. His release was owing to James the Second, who having seen his play of the Plain Dealer was

was so delighted with it that he ordered the payment of Wycherley's debts and settled on him a pension of 200*l.* per annum. He was however too modest to give a full account of his debts, and laboured under embarrassments from which the subsequent death of his father did not much relieve him. A short period before his own decease he married a young woman of 1500*l.* fortune which he applied to his own exigencies. Eleven days afterwards, January 1, 1715, he died. His remains were interred in Covent Garden church.*

In the same house which gave birth to the last mentioned writer was born Mr. John Ireland, author of "Illustrations of Hogarth." He was descended from a family eminent for their conscientious adherence to their religious principles. His mother was daughter of the Rev. Thomas Holland, and grand-daughter of the Rev. Philip Henry. With a strong predilection for literature and painting he had a turn for mechanics, and was therefore placed by his friends with a watch-maker. He married while young and engaged in an extensive business, but was not successful. For pictures, prints, and books, he had a great fondness and a refined taste; his collection of the works of Mortimer and Hogarth was well chosen. In the circle of his intimate acquaintance were many men, eminent in the arts, the bar and the church. He was the particular friend of Gainsborough, and the first protector of Henderson; whose life and letters he published in 1786. His next work which appeared with his name prefixed, was "Hogarth Illustrated" in two volumes. The book abounds with anecdotes which the author's long connections with men conversant with the subjects of the work enabled him to supply. These are generally related in a lively, agreeable style, and though not always appropriate to the print in question, have a connection with the general subject. In the latter period of his life Mr. Ireland was afflicted with a complication of disorders which rendered society irksome

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* Gen. Biog. Dict. Vol. p. 377. et seq.

to him, and his sufferings were aggravated by pecuniary difficulties. He died at the close of the year 1808, in the vicinity of Birmingham.

HODNET.

Llomarchus or Llowarchus a Welsh poet uses the word Hydnydh for the name of a place, which Mr. Llwyd conjectures to be Hodnet; but others are of opinion that the name is Saxon from Odo the owner, or some one of note there before the conquest. Earl Roger held Odenett which gave name to the hundred in Doomsday, that has since gone under the name of Bradford North. That earl had here a presbyter and a prepositus. A presentment was made by a jury at the assizes in the fifty-sixth of Henry the Third touching the forest of Hodnet. George de Cautelupe Baron of Bergeveny in the first of Edward the First was seized of the manor, as one of the fees appendant to the Barony of Montgomery. It appears that this George had two sisters his coheirs: Johanna married to John de Hastings, and Millescent married to Eudo de la Zouch, who had for their property one knight's fee, which Odo de Hodnet held in Hodnet. In the twentieth of Edward the First a quo warranto was brought against William de Hodnet for holding a market, and claiming the emendations of assize of bread and beer, with the liberty of free warren in the manor of Hodnet. For plea he produced his charters, and so was dismissed with honour. The jury at the same assizes found that the serjeanty of William de Hodenet was to be steward of the castle of Montgomery, and to defend the outworks of the castle with his family and servants, and that this serjeanty had been given to his ancestors by Robert de Belesme Earl of Shrewsbury. The daughter and heir of William de Hodenet was married to William de Ludlow. In the twenty-third of Edward the Third, Lawrence de Ludlow son and heir of Maud wife of William de Ludlow, paid 100s.

for

for the relief of his manor of Hodenyth, holden by the service of one knight's fee, by Lawrence de Ludlow chevalier in Hodnet. In the nineteenth of Richard the Second, William la Zouch de Harringworth, knight, was seized of this manor. Escheat in the twenty-second of Richard the Second, Roger de Mortimer Earl of March was seized of the whole knight's fee of John de Ludlow in Hodnet. In the nineteenth of Henry the Seventh, Gilbert Talbot did homage for this manor. In the thirty-second of Henry the Eighth, Thomas Madlicote, and Henry Townrowe did homage and fealty "pro situ de Hodnet manerii." In the fourteenth of Elizabeth the queen gave leave to John Vernon and Elizabeth his wife to alienate this manor of Walter Earl of Essex, and his heirs. And in the second of James Sir Robert Vernon, Knight makes an alienation hereof to Robert Needham, Esquire and others. In the twelfth of Charles the Second Henry Vernon of Hodnet was created a baronet of this kingdom.*

DRAYTON,

once called *Market* Drayton, in the north eastern extremity of the county, on the borders of Staffordshire is a clean little town, watered by the river Tern, and contains rather more than three thousand inhabitants. Its parish church of St. Mary built in the time of King Stephen, was put into thorough repair in 1787, after being stripped of its gothic honours. The steeple is apparently of more recent date than the whole body of the church, as the former needed no repair when the latter was in ruins. The town is supposed to have been formerly much larger; many old foundations being traced in the fields around it. Previously to the introduction of canals it had one of the greatest markets in the district. The wharf at Stone in Staffordshire

* Mr. Dovaston's Manuscripts.

fordshire drew much of its trade. Here is a manufacture of paper, and another of hair for chair bottoms &c.

Twelve miles south of Drayton is

NEWPORT

a small market town, likewise on the borders of Staffordshire near the Watling street. It anciently belonged to the Audleys and to a family of its own name, to whom it gave the title of baron.* The parish church stands in the middle of the main street which forms the town. It is an ancient structure but the side-aisles have been rebuilt in a modern style with *brick*, while the other portions have all the venerable marks of age. Hence it exhibits a most incongruous and fantastic jumble of mouldering stone and gay red brick work,—gothic arches and battlements, and Grecian embellishments. Within is an ancient monument of a judge Salter. From some remaining specimens it appears that the original architecture of the interior (previous to its sad mutilation about a century ago) was beautiful, and of the fifteenth century. The abbot and convent of St. Peter and St. Paul at Shrewsbury were patrons of the Church of Newport; from them it was purchased in the twentieth of Henry the Sixth by Thomas Draper, citizen of London, who made it collegiate, placing in it a custos and four fellows. The custos was the parish priest. The college property was granted by Queen Elizabeth to Edmund Downing and Peter Ashton.

The free-school was founded by W. Adams, Esq. a native of this town, and haberdasher and alderman of London. It is a stately brick building and has a library for the use of the scholars, who are here qualified for the university. Its lands, which are in the parish of Knighton Grange Staffordshire, were exempted from parliamentary, parochial or any other kind of taxes
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* Gough's Camden, III. 34.

by a grant from Oliver Cromwell. At a short distance are two alms-houses built and endowed by the munificent founder of the school, who gave 550*l.* towards the building of a town house. Newport sustained great damage by a fire which broke out on the 16th of May 1665; it consumed one hundred and sixty houses, the loss of which, with what they contained, was estimated at 30,000*l.*

This town contends with Shiffnal for the honour of having given birth to that humorous but licentious poet, Tom Brown. From Newport school he entered at Christ Church Oxford. It does not appear that he remained long there, for taking advantage of a remittance from an indulgent father, and trusting that his wit would help out his learning, he dashed off for the capital, and entered into all its gaieties. Having drained the cup of pleasure to the dregs, and dissipated the last carolus in his purse, he retired to Kingston upon Thames, and trusting to his proficiency in the ancient and modern languages, opened a school. The drudgery of the employment soon disgusted him: he returned to London and to his former way of life, drawing notes on Parnassus to discharge his tavern reckonings, and wasting his rich fund of wit and humour in low abuse and frivolous satire. Admired and shunned, laughed at and despised, he passed the latter part of his life in great indigence. It is said that Lord Dorset, pitying his misfortunes, invited him to a Christmas dinner, where Tom, to his grateful surprise, found a bank note of fifty pounds laid under his plate.* He died in the year 1704 in extreme poverty, and was interred in the cloisters of Westminster Abbey, near the remains of Mrs. Behn, with whom he had in his life-time been intimate. His whole works were printed in 1707, in four volumes, consisting of dialogues, essays, declamations, satires, letters from the dead to the living, translations, amusements, &c. These writings exhibit the cha-

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* Noble's Continuation of Granger's Biographical History, Vol. I. p. 257.

racter of the author's mind; they are replete with wit and humour, seasoned with learning but degraded by indelicacy.

In the neighbourhood of Newport is the village of LILLESHULL, near which, in a solitary and retired situation, partly surrounded with wood, stand the ruins of Lilleshull Abbey. A very considerable part of the Abbey Church remains. The great western entrance is a fine round Norman arch, richly recessed with ribs and running foliage: this seems to have been the lower portion of a western tower. The church has no other remains besides its windows and doors, by which a just idea may be formed of its original architecture; the pillars and arches of the nave and transept being totally destroyed. The south door, which communicated with the cloister, is certainly one of the most highly adorned early Norman arches in the kingdom: clusters of slender shafts, some spiral, others overspread with lozenge-work, and having the intermediate spaces embellished with mouldings, support a semicircular arch, overspread with ornaments peculiar to the Saxon and earliest Norman architecture. The north and south windows of the choir are narrow, plain, and round-headed, but the east window is large, with a beautiful pointed arch of the fourteenth century, within which are some remains of tracery. The area of the cloister, now a farm-yard, is attached to the south side of nave. The entrance of the chapter-house, a fine Norman arch with undulating mouldings, was lately standing, and there still are some scattered portions of other apartments. The walls of the refectory are converted into a good farmer's dwelling-house. The boundary wall of the precinct may be traced to a considerable distance from the present remains of the Abbey. The church, which was cruciform, and probably had two towers, one in the centre and the other at the west end, measured in length 228 feet, the breadth of the nave 36 feet. The stalls of the choir were, at the dissolution, removed to the collegiate church of Wolverhampton, where they in part remain. The Abbey and its estate are now the property of the Marquis of Stafford.

In

In a westerly direction from Lilleshall, and about twelve miles distant from Shrewsbury, is

WELLINGTON,

a small neat town in a populous district, with a well supplied and much frequented market on Thursdays. Its church is a very handsome modern structure, apparently of the fair stone of Grinshill; near it is a very respectable charity school. It was in this town and its vicinity that Charles the First, then on his march to Shrewsbury, mustered his forces, and after issuing orders for the maintenance of strict discipline, made a solemn protestation that he would defend the established religion, govern by law, and preserve the liberty of the subject; and that if he conquered he would uphold the privileges of Parliament. It is to be lamented that he was compelled by adversity to make this protestation of his purposed adherence to the duties of an English monarch; had he earlier practised them he would have avoided the errors which set him at variance with his Parliament.

From this town is seen to great advantage the huge mound of the Wrekin, its base being distant only two miles. Through the interjacent country runs the Prætorian highway called Watling Street, which in this vicinity gives name to a little village on the main road to London.

Beneath the Wrekin, and adjoining the road leading to Shrewsbury, is ORLETON, the seat of William Cludde, Esq. of an ancient family in this county. The house is situated in a rich verdant lawn, well clothed with venerable oaks. The mansion at present has a modern air, but is very ancient, and was till of late enclosed with walls and a gate-house, surrounded by a moat. Here is a valuable collection of pictures, the chief of which are, a Jew Rabbi, by Rembrandt, a very fine painting; Rinaldo and Armida, by Titian; a Cupid, the Victor Mundi, by Vandyk; four landscapes, said to be by Salvator Rosa; and a View on the Rhine, by Wouvermans.

SHIFFNAL is a small town not far distant from the Staffordshire border, in the direct road from London to Shrewsbury and Holyhead. It contains little remarkable besides its parish church, which is a large and interesting cruciform building. Under the square central tower were four semi-circular arches over which have been turned elegant pointed ones. The choir on the north side has ancient round headed windows with Saxon mouldings. In it are a fine altar, and tombs of the family of Briggs. There is a remarkable inscription setting forth that William Wakeley was baptized at Idsall alias Shiffnal, May 1, 1591, and buried at Adbaston, Nov. 28, 1714: his age was 124 and upwards; he lived in the reigns of eight kings and queens.* Attached to the south aisle is a fair chantry chapel. The roof of the nave, of oak, is richly carved, but has of late been entirely obscured by a plaister ceiling. The whole church was, in 1810, fitted up at a great expense.

Shiffnal is distinguished as the birth-place of Thomas Beddoes, M. D. a man eminent for literary talent, as well as for skill in his profession. He was born here about the year 1754 or 1755. His father, a respectable tanner, sent him to Oxford; from which University, in order to complete his medical education, he repaired to Edinburgh. While there, he attended the lectures of some of the most eminent professors of the day; and in all probability became an ardent disciple of the celebrated Dr. Brown, whose system was then extremely popular. Dr. Beddoes seems to have founded many of his theories upon it. As chemistry was always a favourite science with him, he devoted himself to the study of it with great ardour. In 1786, he acted as reader of chemistry at Oxford, there being no professorship for the science at that time established. In the course of the following year he visited France, and during his residence in Paris, became acquainted with Lavoisier, with whom he, after his return, carried on a scientific correspondence. Towards the latter end of 1792, he

* Elizabeth, James the First, Charles the First, and Second, James the Second, William and Mary, Anne, and George the First.

he resigned his readership with a view to settle in life, and after deliberating on the choice of a residence, at length fixed upon Bristol. He there applied with energy to the practice and study of his profession, occasionally publishing the results of his lucubrations. His principal work was “Hygeia; or essays moral and medical on the causes affecting the personal state of the middling and affluent classes,” a work distinguished by much acute observation, but occasionally tinctured by a little wildness of theory.

He died on the twenty-fourth of December, 1808, of a dropsical complaint in the chest, under which he had for some time laboured, though not apprehensive that his end was so near. His ardour for the pursuit of medical science, was exemplary. He devoted his whole life to experiment, to enquiry, and to correspondence with men of talents. The style of his writings was strong, glowing, and animated, but sometimes terse and obscure. He had a considerable talent for poetry, and had the happy faculty of viewing every subject on its most brilliant side. He was an honest and determined enemy to quackery, and delighted to expose and detect it. In the private relations of life, he was amiable and excellent.

About three miles to the east of Shifnal, on the borders of Staffordshire, is TONGE, a considerable village, remarkable for its anciently collegiate church and its castle. The former originally belonged to the Abbey of Shrewsbury, and was purchased by Dame Isabel, widow of Sir Fulk Pembridge, Knt. 1410, who re-built it, and made it collegiate for a warden, four fellows, two clerks, and choristers, to which was added an hospital for thirteen poor persons. The church stands within the fine demesne of Tonge Castle, and is a beautiful and very interesting structure, of the pointed style of the fourteenth century, consisting of a nave, north and south aisles, with a choir and chapel. In the centre rises a handsome, but singular steeple. Immediately above the roof it is square, on this rests an octagonal bell-story, which is lengthened into a very neat but

not lofty spire, the corners of which, about half way up, are adorned with small pinnacles, springing as it were out of the shaft. Although the steeple stands in the *centre* of the church, there never has been a transept. The nave is divided from the aisles by three handsome pointed arches, with clustered pillars on each side. Adjoining the south aisle is a beautiful chantry chapel. The ceiling is a very rich groin, in the fan style of Henry the Eighth's reign, having a profusion of delicate ribs and centre pendants. The tomb of Sir Henry Vernon, Knt. is in the wall which separates the chapel from the church. Over this is a fine open screen of stone, rising about ten feet. On the divisions are four very rich tabernacles, with the original painting and gilding, but bereaved of their statues. Within the area of the steeple, which stands on four lofty pointed arches, reposing on clustered pillars, are four superb monuments, with cumbent figures, on altar tombs, of the Pembridges and Vernons, all of alabaster, highly adorned with rich work. The choir is small, and has eight stalls on each side. The rood-loft or screen is nearly perfect, embellished with much carving in oak. Until within these few years, this elegant little choir was sadly encumbered by the huge monument of Sir Thomas Stanley, of the age of James the First, which had absolutely thrust the altar from its place. This has lately been removed, and an altar-piece of tabernacle work made out of the ornamental fragments of one of the tombs under the steeple. In the steeple, besides a peal of six bells, is a very large and ancient bell, weighing 40 cwt. given by a Pembridge. Below this interesting Gothic church, are considerable remains of the Old Hospital, which has been rebuilt in the adjoining village. The living is now only a curacy.

Tonge Castle is a very magnificent structure, erected in the last century by George Durant, Esq. on the site of the old castle, which he purchased and demolished. The architecture is a fantastic mixture of incorrect Gothic and Moorish, but though bad in detail, the effect produced is strikingly grand, arising from the numerous turrets and pinnacles, the rich colour of the stone,
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the wide extent, and the stately crown given to the whole by two lofty and magnificent Turkish domes. The apartments are handsome, and contain a very large collection of paintings.

At a short distance from the village of Tonge, on the very border of Staffordshire, stands BOSCOBEL HOUSE, rendered remarkable in English history as having afforded an asylum to Charles the Second, after the fatal battle of Worcester. The particulars of his flight and of his concealment in this neighbourhood, as related in a narrative* of his escape from the kingdom published after his restoration, are somewhat curious. According to this account, the king, when he had quitted his court and lodgings, to which he had retired from the field, rallied the most faithful and distinguished of his friends, who resolved to accompany him in his flight. The Earl of Derby, who was among the number, recommended to him one Charles Gifford, Esq. a person of note in that country, as a conductor in his escape. Colonel Careless, a very gallant officer, undertook to sustain the brunt of the pursuing enemy, and to keep them in check, while the king gained distance, a service which he very bravely and successfully effected. Francis Yates, a follower of Mr. Gifford, acted as guide to the royal escort. After a rapid flight of twenty-five miles, the king arrived with the Earl of Derby and other Lords, about three in the morning of Thursday, the fourth of September, 1651, at a house called *White Ladies*, about three quarters of a mile from Boscobel. "The White Ladies was a house belonging to one Fitzherbert, where one George Pendrill, hearing somebody knocking at the gate so early, and opening the window, espied the aforesaid Francis Yates, who was his brother-in-law, with Mr. Gifford, to whom he presently opened the door, and enquired of his brother Yates, what news from Worcester, who told him that the King was defeated, and in

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* A true narrative and relation of his most sacred Majesty's miraculous escape from Worcester, on the third of September, 1651, till his arrival at Paris. Printed at London for G. Colborn. 1660, Quarto, containing eight pages. Harl. Misc. Vol. vi. p. 247.

pursuit, and therefore bade him make haste and put on his cloaths; but before he could make himself ready, the king with most of his lords, had entered the house, and come into the hall; where, after a short consultation held amongst them, the Earl of Derby* called for William Pendrill, the eldest brother, who being come, George was sent to Tonge, to one Robert Beard, an honest subject, to enquire of him whether there were any scattered parties of the king's thereabouts, or any of the enemy's appearing, who brought word that the coast was yet clear, and no parties at all to be seen. In his return he met with his brother Richard, for now those few inhabitants that lived there were awaked with the noise, and their own ill-boding thoughts and fears of the success at Worcester. Richard was no sooner come in but Esquire Gifford called for him and bid him make haste, and bring with him his best cloaths, which were a jump and breeches of green coarse cloth, and a doe-skin leather doublet; the hat was borrowed of Humphrey Pendrill the miller, being an old grey one, that turned up its brims; the shirt (which in that country language they called a hurden, or noggen shirt, of cloth that is made of the coarsest of the hemp) was had of one Edward Martin, George Pendrill's band, and William Cresswell's shoes, which the king having presently unstripped himself of his own cloaths, did nimbly put on. His buff coat and linen-doublet, and a grey pair of breeches which he wore before, he gave into these brothers' hands, who forthwith buried them under ground, where they lay five weeks before they durst take them up again. The jewels, off his arm, he gave to one of the lords then departing. Then Richard came with a pair of shears and rounded the king's hair, which my Lord Wilmot having before cut with a knife, had untowardly notched; and the king was pleased to take notice of Richard's good barbering, so as to prefer his work before my Lord Wilmot's; and gave him the

* Lord Derby had taken this place for a subterfuge after the defeat given him by Col. Lilburn, near Wigan in Lancashire, and was acquainted there, and by them conveyed to Worcester to the King. Narrative, *ut sup.*

the praise of it ; and now his majesty was *à la mode* the woodman." The narrative goes on to relate that the Lords departed, leaving the king in the care of these honest people. He went out in his humble habiliments, with a wood-bill in his hand, accompanied by Richard, into the adjoining woods, leaving Humphrey and George as scouts. He had not been there an hour, before a troop of horse of the enemy's came to White Ladies, and enquired if some of the king's horse and himself had not passed that way ; the answer given was, that about three hours before, there had been a party of horse, and as they supposed, the king with them, but that they presently departed without making any further search. The king was apprized of this by his scouts, and remained in the wood till evening, when he returned to the house. After supping on the homely fare of his hosts, he prepared to depart, having formed a resolution of going into Wales. Jane Pendrill, the mother of the five brethren, came to see him, and expressed her joy that providence had made her sons the instruments, as she hoped, of his majesty's safeguard and deliverance. Francis Yates offered him thirty shillings in silver, of which the king accepted ten, and bade him keep the remainder. When it was near night, these faithful people took leave of their royal guest on their knees, beseeching God to guide and bless him. The king, accompanied by Richard, proceeded to Madeley, to the house of Mr. Francis Wolfe, who gave them to understand that it would be extremely dangerous to attempt to pass into Wales, as the country was in all parts overrun with soldiers. He durst not afford them an asylum in his house, but directed them to a hay-mow, where they took up their lodging. At the close of the following day, the king and Richard, retreated to their former abode having received a small supply of money from Mr. Wolfe. On the Saturday morning they proceeded, without making any stay at Richard's dwelling, to Boscobel, a house of Mr. Gifford, where William Pendrill and his wife dwelt as house-keepers. Here the king worn down with fatigue, met with the kindest treatment,

treatment, and had also the satisfaction of being joined by Colonel Careless, who, after many hardships and hair-breadth escapes, made his way hither. "After a short conference, and but inchoated counsel of the king's probablest means of escape, it was resolved by them to betake themselves to the wood again, and accordingly about nine o'clock that Saturday morning, the sixth of September, they went into the wood, and Colonel Careless brought and led the king to that so much *celebrated oak*, where before he had himself been lodged. . . . By the help of William Pendrill's wood-ladder, they got up into the boughs and branches of the tree, which were very thick and well spread, full of leaves, so that it was impossible for any one to discern through them." Here the king, being accommodated with pillows, fell asleep for some hours, and awaking very hungry, was regaled by the colonel with a lunch of bread and cheese with which Pendrill's wife had furnished him. Meantime a messenger, who had been dispatched to Wolverhampton to enquire after means for furthering their escape, returned with intelligence that one Mr. Whitgrave, of Mosely, was well disposed to assist them.

Towards evening they descended from the tree and were conducted to the garden of Boscobel House, where they drank some wine that the messenger had brought from Wolverhampton. At night they went to the house, and the king, being very hungry, enquired of William if he could procure him a loin of mutton. The man replied that he had not such a joint, but would on that occasion make free with his master's flock. Accordingly a sheep was brought into the ground-cellar, and the colonel, not having patience to wait for a knife, stabbed it with his dagger. When it was cut up, a hind quarter was brought to the king, who immediately fell to chopping the loin in pieces, and assisted in frying them. This repast being ended, the king was conducted to a recess between two walls, which had been contrived for purposes of concealment, and here he slept very inconveniently, as the place was too short for him.

The

The next night he was accommodated with a sorry bed upon the staircase, that the meanness of his lodging might secure him from suspicion. The following day he received a message from Lord Wilmot, who lay concealed at Mr. Whitgrave's, inviting him to come thither, as the retreat was much more secure. On Monday, the eighth of September, near midnight, the king being furnished with a horse, set off for Mosely, accompanied by Colonel Careless, and the six brothers, who conducted him safely to within a short distance of Mr. Whitgrave's house. Here he alighted, and was proceeding hastily toward the place, when recollecting that most of his guard were to return home, he went back to them and said, "I am troubled that I forgot to take leave of my friends; but if ever I come back to England, by fair or foul means, I will remember you: let me see you whenever it shall please God." They all departed, except the colonel and John and Francis Yates, who accompanied the king to the house, where he was most cordially received, and remained in safety until he set forward on his perilous journey with Mrs. Lane. The further particulars of his escape do not require to be related in this place. Whether, after his return to his dominions, the king remembered his promises of requiting the honest peasants who had been so instrumental in his deliverance, the narrative does not state; but to men who could so generously risk their lives in sheltering a person for whose head an immense sum was offered, the approbation of a good conscience would be a solid and unfailing reward.

Boscobel still remains a monument of this interesting portion of the life of Charles the Second. The end and back part of the house are nearly in their original state, but some of the other parts have been much altered, particularly an out-building converted into a sitting parlour, the principal entrance removed, and the area of uninclosed land in front of the house laid out with taste, as a pleasure-ground. The interior has likewise been much altered, but whatever could be traced relative to the king's concealment has been preserved with care.

The

The places in which he was concealed are chiefly in and adjoining a large chimney; the garret, or as it is termed, the gallery, entered by a trap door, was probably one of them. From this there is a descent by a step-ladder to the next hiding-place, and from thence to a door near the bottom of the chimney that leads to the garden. The large wainscoted parlour is nearly in its original form. The concealing-place behind the wainscot has long been stopped up, and the gloves and garters, said to have been left by the king, were lost before the present possessor came to the house.

The Royal Oak, said to have sprung from an acorn of the original oak that sheltered the king, stands near the middle of a large field adjoining the garden. The ruinous wall surrounding it has been rebuilt, and the following inscription on a brass plate is affixed to it:—

Feliciss. arborē quā in asilū
 Potentiss. regis Car. 2di Deus Op. Max.
 per quem reges regnat, his crescere
 voluit, tam in perpet. rei tantæ
 memoria quam in specimen firmæ
 in rege fidei, muro cinctam
 posteris comendant Basilius
 et Jana Fitzherbert.
 Quercus amica Jovi.*

WHITE LADIES PRIORY is a picturesque ruin, in a sequestered and romantic spot, about three quarters of a mile from Boscobel. The date of its foundation is uncertain, but it was inhabited by *White* or *Cistercian* nuns as early as the reign of Richard the First, or John.† The circular arches in the walls, without pillars, indicate it to be of Saxon origin. The place is extra-parochial, and the area of the church is still used as a burying ground, chiefly for catholics.

* Gent. Mag. Vol. LXXIX. p. 809.

† Tanner, p. 452.

MADELEY

was formerly noted as having an excellent market, which being destroyed, or at least the house wherein it was principally held, somewhat more than a century ago, in 1763 a new house was erected, about two miles from the site of the original building, and near the foot of the famous iron bridge cast at Colebrook Dale, where the market is at present kept. Madeley is a parish in the liberties of Wenlock franchise, and contains about five thousand inhabitants. Here is a navigable canal to the Ketley Iron Works, and a work for obtaining fossil, tar, or petroleum, from the condensed smoke of pit coal. But our principal reason for particularizing this place is that we might introduce some account of that excellent man, the late Mr. Fletcher, vicar of Madeley Church.

John William de la Flechere was born Sep. 12, 1729, at Nyon, in Switzerland. His father was an officer in the French service; and subsequently a colonel in the militia of his own country. John William was, at a very early period of his life, strongly impressed with a regard to the obligations of religion. In Mr. John Wesley's *Life of Mr. Fletcher*, several hair-breadth escapes are mentioned, by which his boyhood and youth were rendered remarkable, and which his pious biographer considers to have been events "above the power of nature, probably by the ministry of angels!"* When very young he was sent to the university of Geneva, to pursue his studies with a view to the Christian ministry, for which profession his parents designed him; but losing or disregarding those early impressions of filial and religious duty, for which his youth had been before distinguished, and not relishing the office and character of a priest, he resolved to follow the more active profession of arms, and accordingly, without the consent of his parents, ran away to
Lisbon,

* A Short Account of the Life and Death of the Rev. John Fletcher, by the Rev. John Wesley, p. 11.

Lisbon, where he raised a Swiss company, and obtained a captain's commission to serve on board a Portuguese man of war, which was then preparing for a voyage to the Brazils. By an accident of having his leg very much scalded during breakfast, one morning, through the carelessness of his servant maid, he was confined to his bed till after the ship had proceeded on her destination, leaving him on shore. Mr. Fletcher's attempts to enter the service being frustrated, he came along with several young friends to England, and attended a boarding school, at South Mimms, Herts, for the purpose of being perfected in the English language, the study of which he had commenced at Geneva. He continued under the tuition of a Mr. Burchell about a year and a half, and then, at the recommendation of Mr. Decamps, a French minister, he became tutor to the two sons of Thomas Hill, of Tern Hall, Shropshire, Esq.—It was in the year 1752 that he removed into the family of Mr. Hill.

The manner of Mr. Fletcher's becoming acquainted with the Wesleyan Methodists, of which he was subsequently so redoubtable a champion, is somewhat remarkable. When Mr. Hill attended his parliamentary duties in London, it was his practice to bring his family to town. On one of these occasions, while they stopped at St. Albans, he walked out into the town, and did not return till the rest of the family had proceeded on their journey. A horse being left for him he rode after, and overtook them in the evening. Mr. Hill asking him why he stayed behind, he answered, "As I was walking I met with a poor old woman, who talked so sweetly of Jesus Christ, that I knew not how the time past away." "I shall wonder," exclaimed Mrs. Hill, "if our tutor does not turn Methodist by and by!" "Methodist! madam," said Mr. Fletcher, "pray what is that?" She replied, "Why, the Methodists are a people that do nothing but pray; they are praying all day and all night." "Are they?" said he "then, by the help of God, I will find them out, if they be above ground." He was as good as his word, and was shortly afterwards initiated into all the forms

forms of Methodism, and never afterwards abated in his affection for the faith and company of the followers of Wesley.*

He soon commenced a lay preacher; but, in 1757, having been ordained deacon and priest, he entered the service of the establishment. His first sermon in the country was preached at Atcham Church, though he had frequently assisted Mr. Wesley in that gentleman's irregular services at his meeting-houses in town. Being invited to preach, in the French language, to the prisoners on parole at Tunbridge, he was advised to get the Bishop of London's permission to perform this service weekly, which his lordship thought proper to refuse. "If I had known this at the time," says Mr. Wesley, in a high-sounding and somewhat boastful strain, "King George should have known it, and I believe he would have given the bishop little thanks." We know not on what terms of intimacy Mr. Wesley might be with "King George," of whom he speaks thus familiarly; but we are inclined to believe that his majesty would not highly relish the rash opinion which his friend John expresses respecting the death of the bishop, which took place only a few months afterwards, and which Mr. Wesley, oddly enough calls "an odd incident." It seems his lordship's death was occasioned by a cancer in the mouth, and Mr. Wesley, on what principle of religion or common decency we know not, has the hardihood to declare that he was "not ashamed to acknowledge" that "it was his sentiment" that "this was a just rétribution for silencing such a prophet on such an occasion!" Mr. Wesley was not much in the habit of manifesting any marked respect for the character of such, even of his superiors in the ecclesiastical office, as happened not to forward his own views of reform.

Soon after Mr. Fletcher had become acquainted with the Methodists he was seized with a most distressing and degrading disposition to abuse and vilify himself on account of the real

or

* Short Account, p. 17.

or supposed depravity of his nature and rebellion against God; and though he was labouring day and night to perform the duties of a man and a true Christian, he tells us that "all his endeavours availed nothing against his conquering sin," and that he "gave up all hope, and resolved to sin on and go to hell; yet," he adds, "I had a strange thought, if I do go to hell I will praise God there, and since I cannot be a monument of his mercy in heaven, I will be a monument of his justice in hell!" Such are the "strange thoughts," such the debasing and irrational suggestions of honest superstition and mistaken enthusiasm! At length, however, this good man, to use his own expression, was "plucked out of the devil's teeth," and he obtained more honourable notions of his own character, not, however, without the most heart-rending and violent struggles, that "God would shew him the wickedness of his heart." After his "deliverance" (and surely any relief from such unreasonable tortures is a deliverance indeed) he devoted himself with unusual zeal to the exercises of fasting, prayer, and other religious duties: he used to sit up two whole nights in every week employed in reading, meditation, and prayer. "Meantime he lived entirely on vegetable food, and some time on bread and milk and water." These ill-judged austerities, as Mr. Wesley himself acknowledges, "laid the foundation of many infirmities, which nothing but death could cure." The temptations, as they are called, of such persons as Mr. Fletcher, are as singularly whimsical after their conversion as are their "strange thoughts" prior to that change. "About the year 1760," writes a friend of Mr. Fletcher's to Mr. Wesley, "he shewed me, at his lodgings a rope with pulleys, which he used for exercise; and added with a smile, that the devil often tempted him to hang himself therewith. I said, the desire of women is a temptation far more dangerous than this. He answered with surprize (or rather, as it seemed to me, with a degree of contempt) "in all my life I never felt that temptation: no, not in any degree." "When we met again," continues Mr. Wesley's friend, "he acknowledged, he

he had been plagued like other men, with that formerly unknown temptation."

In this year Mr. Fletcher was presented to the living of Madeley, and his pupils, the young Hills, having removed to Cambridge, he was at liberty to devote himself entirely to the duties of his sacred office; and no minister ever gave himself up so unreservedly to the cause of religion. Because some people excused their non-attendance at church on Sunday mornings, on account of their inability to awake early enough to get themselves and their families ready, he took a bell in his hand, every Sunday morning at five o'clock, and went round the most distant parts of his parish, rousing his lethargic parishioners to their preparatory duties for divine service. Notwithstanding all his exertions, he complained of his small success in the conversion of his neighbours, and began to doubt whether he had not mistaken his calling, till one day his exhortations at a funeral produced an effect on the conduct of a man, who had been previously offended at the free speech of the pastor, to make him "roar like a lion, and afterwards to weep like a child," which cleared up the doubts of the preacher, and made him resolve to continue in so good a work.

Mr. Fletcher had numerous "miraculous" escapes from persecutors. On one occasion he was prevented from being baited like a bull by the wicked colliers of Madeley Wood: he was about to set out for this place to preach and catechize, when he received notice that a child was to be buried, which prevented his going; and very fortunately, since the colliers had resolved to *bait the parson*, as they had just been baiting a bull near the Preaching-House. This was confessed by one of the mischievous fellows who was present, who added—and Mr. Wesley evidently believed the story—that "while they were in the most horrid manner cursing and swearing at their disappointment, a large china punch-bowl, which held above a gallon, without any apparent cause (for it was not touched by any person or thing) fell all to shivers!"

Upon the formation of Lady Huntingdon's College for "gospel ministers," at Trevecka, in Wales, Mr. Fletcher was appointed a sort of superintendant and visiting tutor. Accordingly, without forsaking his flock at Madeley, he entered on his office with his usual ardour.—The present Mr. Joseph Benson, of the Methodist Chapel in the City Road, London, was chosen "head-master;" and, in a letter addressed to Mr. Wesley, he describes the character and conduct of Mr. Fletcher in the most glowing and hyperbolical strain of affectionate enthusiasm; and informs us, that whenever this "Angel of God"—this "Elijah in the school of the Prophets"—"appeared in the school-room among the students, languages, arts, sciences, grammar, rhetoric, logic, even divinity itself, as it is called, were all laid aside, to listen to the exhortations of their beloved tutor, whose conversations and prayers were always readier attended to than Sallust, Virgil, Cicero, or any Latin or Greek historian, poet, or philosopher, they were reading. And," continues Mr. Benson, "they seldom hearkened long before they were all in tears, and every heart caught fire from the flame that burnt in his soul." Nay, Mr. Fletcher would often conclude by inviting such as were like-minded with himself, to follow him into his room, where they would "continue till noon, wrestling like Jacob for the blessing, till they could bear to kneel no longer;" and "this was not done once or twice, but many times." We should hardly credit these representations, had we not heard, on indisputable authority, that it was by no means unusual for Mr. Fletcher to call up the students in the dead of the night to join him in his religious exercises. What progress these *students* made in their learning we are not told, as Mr. Benson, on some "general charges," and for his rigid adherence to the Wesleyan doctrines concerning grace, was dismissed from the college; and Mr. Fletcher resigned from similar motives of attachment.

Soon after Mr. Fletcher's resignation of his office at Trevecka, he made a general tender of his public services to Mr. Wesley, which, being perfectly accordant with the itinerating views of that gentleman,

gentleman, were of course gladly accepted. Mr. Wesley clearly perceived that "such a burning and shining light should not be hid under a bushel in a country village, but should shine in every corner of the land." But, whatever might have been the spiritual abilities of Mr. Fletcher to "sound an alarm through all the nation," his long habits of rigid abstemiousness, and his unwearied labours in his own parish and neighbourhood, prevented his entering the field of action with Wesley and Whitfield, though he did make some pretty extensive journeys for the benefit of his health. In these excursions he travelled in the company of Mr. Wesley. After having traversed many parts of England and Scotland he returned to London, when his health was so much impaired, that he removed to Stoke Newington, where, by the advice of Dr. Fothergill, he was put under a strict regimen of silence; an order of all others the most distressing to such a zealous reformer as Mr. Fletcher.

From Newington he removed, in 1777, to make trial of the Bristol Hot-Wells; but, in December of the same year, it was judged expedient by his physicians that he should make a sea voyage, and accordingly he resolved on Switzerland, his native land, accompanied by his friend, a Mr. Ireland, who has described in animated terms the manner in which he conducted himself on the journey. He preached to the French protestants at Aix and at Montpelier, where his ministrations were attended by numerous admiring ministers from various parts. From Montpelier he was conducted by his brother, who there met him, to Noyon, the place of his nativity, where he lived in the house that had formerly belonged to his father, and was attended, in the most affectionate manner, by his relations. When he had a little recovered his strength, he made a tour through Italy, and visited Rome, where he was one day in danger of being knocked on the head by the mob, for refusing to kneel as the pope passed through the street in an open landau. Mr. Fletcher had many escapes of this kind:—While he was at Paris, on his travels, he evaded the vigilance of the king's officers, who were

directed to apprehend him, for praying by the bedside of a sick woman. This deliverance was effected by an innocent trick of his friend Ireland's, who, when the officers came to the door, stepped out and said, "Sir, have you a warrant for *me*?" The officer, (supposing, as Mr. Ireland intended he should, that he was Mr. Fletcher) answered, "I have: you must come with me." This artifice succeeded: by the time the blunder was discovered, and another messenger had arrived at his lodgings, Mr. Fletcher had fled, and was too far off to be overtaken.

In the spring of 1781 he set out for England, and in the summer of the same year once more settled with his congregation at Madeley. Notwithstanding that Mr. Fletcher was extremely devoted to spiritual enjoyments, and that, to a very advanced period of his life, he had remained entirely free from the "desire of women," on November 12, 1781, he entered the holy bands of matrimony, with a Miss Bosanquet, a lady of considerable fortune, and, like her pious lover, entirely given to Methodism. This was truly a religious wedding; and the holy pair did not fail to embrace the opportunity to expatiate, to their friends who attended it, on "The Bride, the Lamb's wife," and on "the marriage of the Lamb:" these were associations of ideas by no means to be disregarded. In the presence of the whole company, Mr. Fletcher thus prayed: "Lord, thou knowest we would not take this step if we had not eternity in view, and if we were not as willing to be carried into the church-yard as to go into the church!" The marriage ceremony was solemnized at Batley, about two miles distant, and the way was beguiled in conversation respecting the "mystery which is couched under marriage." He now devoted himself, with renewed and reinforced ardour, to the duties of his parish; and, by the co-operations of his wife, effected numerous plans of instruction and charity. But we must hasten to a conclusion of this short and imperfect memoir. In the year 1785 he was seized with his last illness, and, in the most extatic raptures, died, on Sunday night, August the 14th, and was buried

buried in Madeley church-yard, amidst the tears and lamentations of thousands. A stone, bearing a simple epitaph, records the day of his birth, that of his death, and a few of his numerous virtues. We have no room to expatiate on the character of this extraordinary man; and even if we had, we should not like to trust ourselves with the delineation. Our objections to his superstition and excessive enthusiasm, might lead us to speak in terms not accordant with our devout and sincere admiration of his character. All parties loved him for his piety, yet lamented that unbounded zeal, which destroyed his life. Many of his writings have long been the unanswered and unanswerable defences of the Divine Character, against the attacks of Predestinarians and the kindred licentiousness of Antinomianism.

COALBROOK DALE, celebrated for its iron bridge over the Severn, is a winding glen between two vast hills, about a mile from Madeley-Market. Here are the most considerable iron-works in England; the forges, mills, and steam-engines, with all their vast machinery, the flaming furnaces and smoking lime-kilns, form a spectacle horribly sublime, while the stupendous iron arch, striding over the chasm, presents to the mind an idea of that fatal bridge made by Sin and Death over chaos, from the boundaries of Hell to the wall of "this now fenceless world."

" The aggregated soil,
 Death with his mace petrific, cold and dry,
 As with a trident smote, and fix'd as firm
 As Delos, floating once; the rest his look
 Bound with Gorgonian rigour not to move,
 And with asphaltic slime, broad as the gate,
 Deep to the roots of Hell the gather'd beach
 They fastened, and the mole immense wrought on
 O'er the foaming deep, high arch'd, a bridge
 Immoveable."

MILTON,

This famous bridge was laid in the year 1779. All the parts having been cast in open sand, and a scaffold previously erected, each part of the rib was elevated to a proper height by strong ropes and chains, and then lowered till the ends met in the centre. All the principal parts were erected in three months, without any accident to the work or workmen, or the least obstruction to the navigation of the river. On the abutments of stone-work are placed iron plates, with mortises, in which stand two upright pillars of the same. Against the foot of the inner pillar the bottom of the main rib bears on the base plate. This rib consists of two pieces, connected by a dove-tail joint in an iron key, and fastened with screws. Each piece is seventy feet long. The shorter ribs pass through the pillar at apertures left for that purpose, and are mortised into the top-bearers and into the base plate and pillar, the back rib in like manner, without coming down to the plate. The cross-stays, braces, circle in the spandrils, and the brackets, connect the larger pieces, so as to keep the bridge perfectly steady; while a diagonal, and cross-stays and top-plates, connect the pillars and ribs together in opposite directions. The whole bridge is covered with iron top-plates, projecting over the ribs on each side, and on this projection stands the ballustrade of cast-iron. The road over the bridge, made of clay and iron-slag, is twenty-four feet wide, and one foot deep; the toll for carriages is one shilling. The span of the arch is one hundred feet six inches, and the height from the base line to the centre is forty feet. The weight of iron in the whole is three hundred and seventy-eight tons ten hundred weight: each piece of the long ribs weighs five tons fifteen hundred weight. On the largest or exterior rib is inscribed, in capitals: "This bridge was cast at Coalbrook, and erected in the year 1779."*

It may now be proper to notice a few remarkable places in the central part of the county. About eight miles south of Shrewsbury

* Gough's Camden, iii. 28.

Shrewsbury is the village and parochial chapelry of LONGNOR, in the hundred of *Cundover*. In 1300 Roger Sprenchose was lord of Longnor, from whom it passed through females, till, in 1426, or thereabouts, the Corbetts of Albrighton, in this county, became settled here, in which branch of that family it has continued ever since. Mr. Pennant, in his *Welsh Tour*,* gives the following account of LONGNOR HALL, at present the seat of the Rev. Archdeacon Corbett: "It is," says Mr. Pennant, "a good brick house, built in 1670, by Sir Richard Corbett. It is seated in a pretty vale, and commands a fine view of *Caer Caradoc* and *Lawley Hill*. The portrait of its founder is in the house. He had been chairman of the committee of elections, in the reign of Charles II. and died, aged 43, in 1683. Here is an admirable portrait of Margaret, widow of James, Earl of Shrewsbury, and daughter of John, Earl of Rutland; the countenance dejected, but extremely beautiful. She is dressed in very picturesque weeds; a three-quarters, by Sir Godfrey Kneller. Her daughter, Lady Margaret, first married to Lord Stawel, afterwards to Lord Raneleigh, extremely beautiful; an half-length, by the same hand. A portrait of this lady is among the beauties at Hampton Court: a picture of her husband is in this house." Mr. Pennant also describes three other pictures at this seat:—Lady Mildred, youngest daughter of Margaret, Countess of Salisbury, and wife to Sir Uvedale Corbett, son of Sir Richard; our Saviour raising Lazarus, considered by the best judges as an original of *Julio Romano*; and a large picture of St. Peter denying our Lord, which, Mr. Pennant says, is "a fine performance, by Gerard Honthurst."

The late Sir Richard Corbett, mentioned by Pennant, was son to Sir Uvedale Corbett, and grandson to Sir Richard. He represented Shrewsbury in many parliaments, and died in 1774, when the late Robert Corbett, also mentioned by the *Welsh Tourist*, succeeded to the estates by devise, being one of his nearest relations, and equally descended, through his mother,

a Miss Corbett, from Sir Edward, the first baronet. Mr. Pennant's "respected old friend, Joseph Plymley, Esq." was the present owner's father.* He was a considerable contributor to Mr. Pennant's *British Zoology*, and many of the engravings for that work were taken from his drawings. Upon the decease of Robert Corbett, Esq. in 1804, the archdeacon succeeded to the estates of the late Sir Richard Corbett, by virtue of the entail, his mother being a daughter of the Miss Corbett above mentioned, by her husband, Mr. John Flint.

At a short distance from Longnor is ACTON BURNEL CASTLE. What remains of it is a square building, with a square tower at each corner. The walls are exceedingly strong, and adorned with fine battlements and rows of windows, with curious carved work. Its founder, or more probably its restorer, was Robert Burnel, Bishop of Bath and Wells, treasurer, and afterwards chancellor of England, who, in 1292, was sent to the Marches of Scotland, where he was employed to demand of the Scots what they had to object against the claim of his master to the right and exercise of the superiority and direct dominion over their kingdom, and to receive their acknowledgement of it.† This castle is memorable for a session of parliament, which was held here in 1284; the lords sat in the castle, and the commons in a large barn,‡ the remains of which are still to be seen. Many of the Welsh nobles who had taken up arms were pardoned by this parliament, and the famous act, intituled *Statutum de Mercatoribus*, was passed here, by which debtors in London, York, and Bristol, were obliged to appear before the different mayors, and agree upon a certain day of payment, otherwise an execution was issued against their goods.§

Some

* The Rev. Archdeacon *Plymley*, whose *Agricultural Survey* of this County has been of signal service to us in a former part of this work, changed his name to that of *Corbett*, as a necessary condition under the entail of the estates above mentioned.

† Gough's *Camden*, iii. 22.

‡ Vide ante, p. 57.

§ *Magna Britannia*, IV. 647.

Some miles to the southward is CHURCH STRETTON, *quasi* Street-town, from Watling Street, which runs close by it. It is a small market-town, situated in a valley, or rather a hollow, and apparently closed in by lofty and impassable mountains. The turnpike road from Shrewsbury to Ludlow passes through it. Here is a small old town-house, and a free-school for twenty boys. The church is built in the form of a cross, with a tower in the centre. The mounts are mostly covered with heath and furze, interspersed with bogs, and patches of grass, which afford excellent pasturage for numerous flocks of sheep. On the sides in many places are pieces of rock, some in their natural stations, others in detached masses. The two hamlets of *All Stretton* and *Little Stretton* belong to this town. Between it and the latter place is an insulated hill between two others of a much greater altitude, with deep entrenchments on its summit, called *Brocard's Castle*. It is a post admirably adapted to guard the pass between the mounts. To the north-east of the town is *Caer Caradoc*, commonly called Quardock, a lofty steep hill, with entrenchments on its summit. It probably acquired that name from having been one of the military stations of Caractacus, and it was indeed once considered as the place where he fought his last battle, until a strict comparison of its situation, with the description given by Tacitus, caused the opinion to be abandoned. Formerly a society of gentlemen used to meet annually on this hill to celebrate the fame of the British chief, in compositions both of prose and verse. A very spirited poetical effusion was on one occasion delivered, almost extempore, by the Rev. Sneyd Davies.* Almost every dingle and narrow valley belonging to these hills has its peculiar brook, or rivulet, which in its progress forms many cascades over its rocky channel. They all produce excellent trout. The air of this district is remarkably salubrious. At Church Stretton was born Dr. Roger Mainwaring, Chaplain to Charles I. and Bishop of St. David's, who died 1653.

* A copy of it is given in Pennant's *Wales*, vol. iii. p. 274.

HALES OWEN

is an insulated district belonging to the hundred of Brimstry, in this county, but circumscribed by Worcestershire and Staffordshire, and distant at least twelve miles from the nearest part of Salop. The town is pleasantly situated in a valley, and has many good houses, being a favourite residence for several respectable families. It was formerly noted for its great abbey of Præmonstratensian canons, built in the reign of King John, pursuant to a charter granted by that monarch to Peter de Rupibus, bishop of Winchester. From the few remains which are now standing, and the foundations that are still to be traced, it appears to have been a stately and extensive edifice. A house in its vicinity, now inhabited by a farmer, is supposed to have been the abbot's kitchen; in it are preserved some fragments of the ruins, among the rest some painted tiles, with which various parts of the abbey were paved. The parish church of Hales Owen is a fine structure, and is particularly admired for its beautiful spire, supported by four curious arches. The town has not much trade, nor is its weekly market much attended. Here is a manufacture of nails, and various sorts of hardware.

In the neighbourhood is that celebrated spot called THE LEASOWES, once the property and favourite residence of Shenstone. This elegant poet was born here in 1714. He was distinguished, even in childhood, by a quick capacity and a fondness for reading. So great indeed was his delight in books, that he was frequently calling for fresh supplies; when any of the family went to town, he expected that a new book should be brought him, which, when it came, was carried to bed and laid by him; and when his commission was neglected, it is said that his mother used to pacify him for the night by wrapping up a piece of wood, of the size and form of a volume, and laying it in the accustomed place. The old matron who taught him his letters, he

he afterwards celebrated in that exquisite imitation of Spenser, "The School-Mistress." After acquiring the rudiments of learning at the grammar-school of Hales Owen, he was placed with Mr. Crumpton, an eminent teacher at Solihul, under whose tuition he made a rapid progress in his studies. At an early age he became an orphan, and was, with his elder brother, who afterwards died unmarried, left to the care of his grandmother, who managed the estate.* From school he was sent, in 1732, to Pembroke College, Oxford, being designed for the church; but, though he had the most serious impressions of the value of piety, he never could be induced to enter into orders. While at the university he cultivated his talent for poetry, and in 1737 published a small collection anonymously. On quitting college, he resided sometimes at London and sometimes at Bath, and other places of genteel resort, until the death of his friend, the Rev. Mr. Dolman, who had managed his affairs after his grandmother's decease, obliged him to take the care of his fortune into his own hands. He retired to his paternal estate, and devoted himself to the improvement of its natural beauties, with all the characteristic ardour of a poetic imagination, matured by a classic taste. Under his arrangement and direction the Leasowes were transformed into an Arcadia, that rivalled the more extensive domain of Hagley, in its neighbourhood. The diversity of surface, and the agreeable contrast of rural scenery within its boundaries, were heightened and advantageously displayed by the judicious disposition of the walks, at various points of which were placed seats, for the convenience of viewing the rich prospects of the country around. Nor was the taste of Mr. Shenstone less conspicuous in the inscriptions which he assigned to the chosen spots in his retreat. Of these, some were selected from Virgil and Horace; others were of his own composition, either characteristic of the peculiar scene which they adorned, or expressive of the writer's regard to some friend or brother poet. It is much to be regretted that his paternal

* Johnson's Lives of the Poets.

paternal fortune was not adequate to the gratification of his passion for rural elegance, or equal to the benevolence of his character. When it is considered that his yearly income did not exceed three hundred pounds, that he lived in great hospitality, was indulgent to his servants, and charitable to the indigent, there can be no cause for surprise that the improvement of his estate should have thrown him into embarrassments. It does not appear, however, that, as Dr. Johnson rudely observes, "his expences brought clamours about him that overpowered the lamb's bleat and the linnet's song;" or that "his grounds were haunted by beings very different from fawns and fairies." According to the more candid testimony of his friend Mr. Graves, he had too much spirit to expose himself to insults for trifling sums, and guarded against any great distress by occasionally anticipating a few hundreds, which his estate could very well bear, as appeared by what remained to his executors after the payment of his debts. He died at the Leasowes, of a putrid fever, on the 11th of February, 1763, and was buried in the church-yard of Hales Owen: within the church is a handsome urn erected to his memory.

The character of his writings is an amiable tenderness of thought, and an elegant simplicity of diction. He seldom ascends to sublimity; but this arises rather from the peculiar gentleness of his disposition than from want of powers. He possessed a great share of sensibility, which led him to choose subjects of a nature to engage the mild and tranquil affections of the heart, and to avoid those which awaken more powerful emotions. Hence he may be termed the poet of rural and domestic life; and his works will always be read with delight by those who are endowed with a mind and a temper congenial with his own. He was much beloved and respected in the circle of his friends, and though never married, was highly susceptible of tender attachments. One which he formed in his youth was with difficulty surmounted. To the lady who was the subject of it he addressed an exquisite pastoral ballad, which Dodsley considers

considers as capable of subduing the loftiest heart, or softening the most obdurate. According to Johnson, however, he might have obtained the object of his affections. Probably he forbore to marry on account of the narrowness of his fortune. When he died he left more than sufficient to pay his debts, and by will appropriated for this purpose his whole estate, which has consequently declined from the state of perfection in which he left it. But there are still vestiges of his taste and genius; and though the place has lost much of its interest since the poet ceased to inhabit it, yet it will always be considered as sacred to his memory.*

St. Kenelm's Chapel is in this parish, though part of the yard is said to be in Staffordshire; it is an ancient structure, consisting of a single aisle, and has a very plain interior. The general appearance of the building seems not of higher antiquity than Henry the Third's time; but the south entrance, over which is some ancient sculpture, is undoubtedly part of the old Saxon chapel, which was erected soon after the discovery of King Kenelm's body. The tower is a very elegant specimen of Gothic architecture. On the outside the chapel wall, fronting the south, is carved a rude figure of a child, with two of his fingers lifted up in the ancient form of giving the benediction. Above the head of the figure is a crown, which projects considerably from the wall; no doubt intended to designate St. Kenelm. As this chapel was never privileged with the right of sepulture, no monuments or inscriptions appear; nor are there any arms, &c. in the windows. Divine service is performed in it only once every Sunday. It is a donative of Hagley, the beautiful seat of Lord Lyttleton; and is generally given to the rector of that place, in conjunction with Frankley chapel. The views in this district are

* The reader who is desirous of a detailed description of the Leasowes in the time of Shenstone, is referred to Dodsley's edition of his Works, vol. ii. p. 353. See also, "A Companion to the Leasowes, Hagley, Enville," &c. printed at Birmingham, 1789.

are uncommonly fine and picturesque. Shenstone thus alludes to it in his twenty-third Elegy :

Born near the scene for Kenelm's fate renown'd,
I take my plaintive reed and range the grove,
And raise the lay, and bid the rocks resound,
The savage force of empire and of love.

Fast by the centre of yon various wild,
Where spreading oaks embower a Gothic fane,
Kendrida's arts a brother's youth beguild;
There nature urg'd her tenderest ties in vain.

The legend of St. Kenelm, is thus related in the *Gentleman's Magazine*.* Kenelm was the only son of Kenulf, king of the Mercians, who died 819. Kenelm, then a child of about seven years of age, was murdered by the artifice of his eldest sister Quendrida, assisted by the young king's guardian or tutor, Ascobert, who took him into Clent wood, under pretence of hunting, and there cut off his head, and buried him under a thorn tree. The account given of the discovery of this murder, by William of Malmesbury and Matthew of Westminster, is a curious instance of the superstition of the times:—"After the perpetration of this bloody deed, the inhuman sister soon seized the kingdom, and prohibited all enquiry after her lost brother. But this horrible fact, concealed in England, was made known at Rome by a supernatural revelation; for, on the altar of St. Peter there, a white dove let fall a paper, on which, in golden letters, was inscribed both the death of Kenelm and the place of his burial. 'In Clent cow-batche, Kenelme, king bearne, lyeth under a thorne, heaved and bereaved.' The Roman priests and monks not understanding this inscription, an Englishman, accidentally present, interpreted it. The pope sent over an envoy to the English kings, to inform them concerning the

* Vol. LXVII. p. 138. See also Pearson's "Select Views," &c. and *Gent. Mag.* Vol. LXXII.

the murdered Kenelm. The whole being thus miraculously revealed, the body was taken out of the hole where it had been hid, and with great solemnity carried to Winchelcombe, in Gloucestershire, of his father's foundation, and there buried." The chapel is said to stand where the body was found; and the well which gushed out is now dry, and nearly covered with bushes and briars.

In this parish was born, November 8, 1627, the learned Adam Littleton, author of a Latin Dictionary, and various other works. He was educated under Dr. Busby, of flagellating memory, and from Westminster school was chosen student of Christ Church, Oxford; but was shortly expelled by the parliament visitors. He nevertheless became usher, and afterwards second master, at Westminster school; and, after the Restoration, he was admitted rector of Chelsea, Middlesex. In the same year, 1674, he was made prebendary of Westminster, and obtained a grant from the king to succeed Dr. Busby, as headmaster. He was also one of his majesty's chaplains, and advanced in his divinity degrees without taking any in arts, which honour and privilege he obtained at the instance of Dr. Henchman, Bishop of London. He was for some time sub-dean of Westminster; and, in 1687, was licenced to the church of St. Botolph, Aldersgate, which living he held upwards of four years, and then resigned it. He died June 30, 1694, in his sixty-seventh year, and was buried in Chelsea church, where there is a handsome monument to his memory. He was a man of great and various erudition, and was well skilled in the oriental languages and in rabbinical learning. His works amount to about twelve in number, consisting of sermons, translations, and a variety of papers on miscellaneous and learned topics.*

It would be obviously wrong to close our account of Shropshire, without some notice of two other persons of learning and note, natives of this county: we allude to Mr. Richard Baxter,

* Gen. Biog. Diet. Vol. IX.

Baxter, the celebrated nonconformist, and Mr. William Baxter, his nephew, an eminent grammarian, antiquary, and critic.

Mr. Richard Baxter was born, November 12, 1615, at Rowton, near High-Ercal, in the hundred of South-Bradford. His father was a good and worthy man, and a freeholder of the county, but unable to give his son the kind of education which he would most have preferred; so that young Richard, with uncommon natural talents, fell into the hands of ignorant or indolent teachers, and derived but little benefit from any of them, in the early period of his life, except that of a good library at the house of Mr. Richard Wickstead, chaplain to the council at Ludlow, under whose tuition he remained about a year and a half, and then returned to his father's house at Eaton-Constantine, a village near Shrewsbury. During his residence with Mr. Wickstead, he was persuaded to relinquish his studies, and think of making his fortune. He accordingly came to Whitehall, and was recommended to Sir Henry Herbert, master of the revels. This mode of life but ill accorded with the feelings and views of Mr. Baxter, and he soon returned to resume his studies. On the recommendation of Mr. Richard Foley, of Stourbridge, he was appointed head-master of Dudley free-school. Not having, at that time, any scruples respecting conformity to the church establishment, he applied, with success, in 1638, to the Bishop of Winchester for orders. But the "Et cætera" oath, as it was called, soon rendered him dissatisfied with his situation, and led him to the perusal of books on the subject of conformity. In 1640 he became minister of a church at Kidderminster, where he remained two years, when the civil war broke out, and he took part with the parliament forces. After the battle of Naseby he became chaplain to Colonel Whalley's regiment; but he was separated from the army in a very critical juncture, in February, 1647, the day that a conspiracy was formed against the parliament, in a meeting at Nottingham.

Nottingham, and just before the engagement at Triploe-Heath; having lost a gallon of blood at the nose,* on which he retired, in a very weak state to the house of Sir T. Rouse, and there awaited, in daily expectation, "the great teacher, death;" but he soon recovered. When the arch hypocrite Cromwell had succeeded in gaining the ascendancy over the ancient laws and constitution of the country, Mr. Baxter, much to his credit, refused to favour so foul an usurpation, and frankly told the Protector, that "the honest people of the land thought their ancient monarchy to be a blessing, and desired to know how and to whom they had forfeited it."† And it must be confessed, that whatever were the vices of Charles, his virtues were more sincere and his conduct more upright, than those of the canting persecutor and raging Calvinist, Oliver. Mr. Baxter came to London on the eve of the deposition of Richard Cromwell, and preached before the parliament the very day previous to their voting the restoration of the king; and also preached before the lord-mayor and aldermen, at St. Paul's, on the day of thanksgiving for General Monk's success. After the Restoration he was appointed one of the chaplains in ordinary, and once preached before the king in that capacity. He afterwards united with several ministers to obtain from Charles some terms of peace and union with the bishops. He was also one of the commissioners at the Savoy conference, and drew up a reformed liturgy, which many have admired for its excellence. The Lord Chancellor Clarendon offered him the bishopric of Hereford, which he politely refused, and requested only the liberty to continue his ministerial duties at Kidderminster; but this reasonable request was denied him, and he was compelled to return to London, where he occasionally preached for Dr. Bates, at St. Dunstan's, Fleet Street, having obtained a licence from Bishop Sheldon, on subscribing a promise not to preach against the doctrine or the ceremonies of the church in his diocese. On May 15, 1662, he preached his farewell sermon at Black Friars,

having resolved not to conform to the conditions of the Act of Uniformity.*

In September of the same year, he married the daughter of Francis Charleton, Esq. of this county, with whom he lived in uninterrupted happiness till her death in 1681.† Soon after their marriage they retired to Acton, in Middlesex, where he contracted an intimate acquaintance with Sir Matthew Hale, with whom he spent much of his time in moral and religious conversation. Sir Matthew shewed his esteem for Mr. Baxter, by leaving him at his decease a small legacy.

At the expiration of the Conventicle Act he returned to his public duties as a preacher, and had such crowded audiences, as to draw forth the suspicions of government, and he was sent to the New Prison for six months; but being released by a habeas corpus, he removed to Totteridge, near Barnet.

After the Act of Indulgence, in 1672, he returned to London, and commenced lecturer at Pinner's Hall, and in Fetter Lane, and afterwards became a stated preacher in St. James's Market-house. In 1676 he built a meeting-house in Oxendon Street, where he was very soon disturbed, as he was also at other places which he hired for public worship. In 1682 he was suddenly surprised in his house, by a warrant made out under the Five Mile Act, and would have been carried to prison had he not been rescued by Dr. Cox, who took oath, before five different magistrates, that Mr. Baxter could not, without endangering his life, be confined in prison. But though his imprisonment was, for that time, prevented, his books and household furniture, even to the bed on which he lay sick, were seized and sold; by virtue of five warrants, issued to distrain for 195*l.* for five sermons preached within limits proscribed by the Five Mile Act. Mr. Baxter's goods were saved to him by the kindness of some friend, who took them at the appraisement; the money was afterwards repaid by Mr. Baxter. After this he was repeatedly
seized

* Calamy.

† Palmer's Nonconformist's Memorial, Vol. III. p. 397.

seized and held to bail for his good behaviour, though for the most part he was confined to his bed.*

In the reign of James the Second, at the instigation of Sir Roger L'Estrange, he was committed prisoner to the King's Bench, by a warrant from the execrable Judge Jefferies, who treated this worthy man at his trial in the most brutal and savage manner. The charge alledged against him was that of sedition, in reflecting on the conduct or character of some of the bishops of the church, in certain passages of his Paraphrase on the New Testament. He remained in prison two years, and the wretch Jefferies said, "he was sorry that the act of indemnity disabled him from hanging him." The weathercock king changing his measures, Baxter was "pardoned." He lived to see the great and glorious Revolution; but died in December 1691, and was interred in Christ Church, Newgate Street. His funeral was attended by a vast concourse of friends, both in and out of the establishment. Mr. Palmer says, that Dr. Earl, who was one of the spectators, informed him, that the train of coaches reached from Merchant Taylor's Hall, from whence the corpse was carried, to the place of burial.† We have no room to expatiate on the character and writings of Mr. Baxter; the one was eminently correct, and the other were extremely voluminous and diffuse. Bishop Burnet says, that if he had not meddled in too many things, he would have been esteemed one of the most learned men of the age; and adds, that he wrote near two hundred books.‡ Anthony Wood, who always finds a difficulty in speaking with temper concerning the Nonconformists, calls Bax-

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* Palmer's Nonconform. Mem. ut sup. † Ibid. Vol. III. p. 400. note.

‡ Own Time, I. p. 192, 8vo. Ed. 1809. The author of a note in the Biog. Brit. Vol. II. p. 18, says, he has seen 145 distinct treatises of Mr. Baxter's; whereof four were folios, seventy-three quarto, forty-nine octavo, and nineteen in twelves and twenty-fours, besides single sheets. Jefferies reproached him with having written a cart load of books, "every one as full of sedition and treason as an egg is full of meat."

ter "the pride of the Presbyterian party." * The religious creed of Mr. Baxter aimed at a medium between the supposed laxity of Arminianism and the real severity of Calvinism. It lessened the horrors and injustice of the *horribile decretum*, by allowing to the non-elect the possibility of being saved. According to this scheme, though some may be "sanctified from the womb," none are damned *à priori*.—The elect are certain of salvation, and the non-elect are put into "a salvable state;"—"divine grace," he would say, "makes the rebellious will obedient, but does not make the will to be no will." There is something of that casuistical strain in this scheme, which so strongly tintured many of his writings. It discovers a benevolent mind struggling with the ungracious prejudices of Calvinian dogma, and striving to reconcile with the immutable principles of justice the grossest partiality and favouritism.†

Mr. William Baxter, the nephew of the celebrated Richard Baxter, was born in 1650, at an obscure village near Shrewsbury. His early education was much neglected, yet he afterwards became, as Dr. Harwood asserts, one of the most elegant and judicious critics in England.‡ He directed his attention principally to the study of antiquities and philology. In 1719 he published a Dictionary of British Antiquities, under the title of "*Glossarium Antiquatum Britannicarum, sive syllabus etymologicus antiquitatum veteris Britanniae, atque Iberniae, temporibus*

* Athen. Oxon.

† The Baxterian scheme is clearly defined in the Rev. Mr. Evans's excellent little work, entitled "A Sketch of the Denominations of the Christian World." Eleventh ed. *in loc.*

‡ View of the various editions of the Greek and Roman Classics, second edit. p. 175. Mr. Baxter's Anacreon is called, by Harwood, "a most excellent" edition; and his Horace, of 1725, says that eminent scholar and bibliographer, is the best edition ever published. Dr. Adam Clarke, in his Bibliographical Dictionary, IV. p. 157, 138, adds, that some copies, which appear to be of this last edition, bear the date 1735. This might probably have been a misprint, discovered and corrected after part of the impression had been worked off.

poribus Romanorum." It was dedicated to the well-known Dr. Mead. Mr. Gough* observes, that Mr. Baxter, in this work, from his skill in the old British language, attempted to determine the geography by etymology, a method of all others the most uncertain, and which too often misled Camden before, and others since. His other works are very numerous, and every one of them on the most important subjects. His literary correspondents were valuable: among them was the indefatigable Mr. Lloyd, of Trenewith, whose MS. collections are rich sources of information, especially to Shropshire topographers.

Mr. Baxter spent most of his time in the honourable but laborious profession of a schoolmaster, and for many years kept a respectable boarding-school at Tottenham High Cross, in Middlesex, where he remained till he was chosen master of the Mercer's School, London, which situation he filled above twenty years, but resigned some time before his death, which happened on the 31st of May, 1723, in the seventy-third year of his age.†

We will finally close our sketch of this county and the history connected therewith, by some farther account of Robert Langelande, whom we very briefly noticed in a former part of our work.‡ The author of "The Visions of Pierce Plowman" was one of our most ancient English poets, and one of the first disciples of the celebrated Wickliff. Bayle says, that "The Visions" were completed during the mayoralty of John Chichester, of London, in the year 1369. If this be so, then many of Chaucer's and Gower's pieces made their appearance before that work; yet, as there are passages in the Plowman's Tale of Chaucer which have a strong resemblance to some of those in "The Visions," the presumption is that Langelande's work is many years older than the Canterbury Tales. There is a marked difference in the general idiom and phraseology of Langelande and

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Chaucer.

* Anecdotes of British Topography, p. 4.

† Vide the General Biographical Dictionary, Vol. II. Biog. Brit. II. and Nichols's Anecdotes of Bowyer.

‡ Page 235.

Chaucer. The former approached much nearer, in his derivations of words, to the peculiar genius of the Anglo-Saxon language; while the latter, with Gower, attempted to soften down the harshness of our native tongue, by the introduction of words from the Latin, the Italian, and the French, and borrowed from Petrarca and Dante the seven-lined stanza, which he introduced into our poetry.

The poem, entitled "The Visions of Pierce Plowman," is extremely irregular, both as to action and design. It is a keen satire on almost every action of life; but especially of those of the corrupt clergy of the time. It is full of humour; but, instead of rhyme, the author has contrived to make almost every verse to begin with the same letter. This whimsical alliteration contributes very materially to the obscurity of the style and the ambiguity of the sense. Dr. Hickes observes, that this mode of versification was borrowed from the practice of the Saxon bards, and that the poem throughout abounds with Saxonisms. The following is a specimen of the Introduction to the Vision:

———— " In a summer season, when hotte was the sun,
I shoupe me into the shroubes as I a shepe were;
In habit as a hermit, unholie of werkes,
Went wide into the world wonders to hear,
And on a May-morning, on Malverne-hylles,
Me befell a ferly, a fairy methought
I was wery of wandring," &c,

Selden, Spencer, Hickes, and others, have spoken of this author in terms of commendation.* For our own parts, we must confess, we can discern little to admire in the Visions of Pierce Plowman, apart from that vein of humour and just satire, with which the work is certainly replete. A new edition, we understand, is at this time (1811) in the press, under the inspection of the celebrated antiquary Dr. Whitaker, of Craven.

* Vide Gen. Biogr. Dict. *apud* Langelande,

SOMERSETSHIRE.

THIS district, as well as those on its confines, is said to have been in early times inhabited by the Belgæ, a people of Celtic origin,* who migrated hither out of Gaul, about three centuries before the Christian era. After expelling the aboriginal Britons, they established colonies, and cultivated the lands, instructing such of the natives as chose to associate with them, in the arts of industry. Their dominion was greatly extended about two hundred and fifty years after their first settlement, when Divitiacus, king of the Suessones, brought over to them a considerable army of their countrymen from the continent. The continual hostilities, arising from the efforts of the native inhabitants to regain their possessions, were on the arrival of this prince appeased; and, according to a treaty concluded on between both people, a line was drawn to determine their respective boundaries. This line was perpetuated by a large and deep fosse, called, from the circumstances of its origin, Wansdike; parts of which may still occasionally be traced. It commences at Andover, in Hampshire, and passes thence in nearly a direct course to Great Bedwin, in Wiltshire; thence crossing the great forest at Savarnack and Marlborough Downs, it proceeds to Culston, Edington, and Spye Park. It crosses the Avon near Bennacre, and again at Bath Hampton; thence continuing its course over Claverton down to Prior Park, Englishcombe, Stanton Prior, Publow, Norton, and Long Ashton, it terminates in the Severn sea at Portishead, being a distance of eighty miles from its commencement. On Marlborough Downs this singular dike appears nearly in its pristine state, being exceedingly deep,

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and

* See Beauties, &c. Vol. VI. p. 1.

and flanked by a lofty mound or rampart. On its track, near Great Bedwin, celts and instruments of war have been discovered. According to this demarcation, the Belgæ occupied a great part of this county, and of their chief cities, Ivelchester, Bath and Winchester, the two former are within its limits. Their savage and furious contentions with the people, whose soil they had usurped, lasted until the arrival of the Romans in Britain, when the oppressors, in their turn, became the oppressed. We find some mention made of the Cangi, a posthumous tribe of those Belgæ who last migrated hither under Divitiacus. This tribe was annihilated by the Romans, nine years after their invasion, in commemoration of which achievement two trophies were erected by the Emperor Claudius. Many remains within this district bear testimony to the characteristic activity of the Romans, in establishing stations, marking out camps, and founding colonies. Besides their cities of Aquæ Solis, or Bath, and Iscalis, or Ilchester, there are many places which, although their ancient names be lost, bear evident marks of a Roman origin, in the foundations of their walls, and in various remains that have from time to time been dug from them.* Their principal road was the fosse, which extended from Bath in a south-westerly direction to Perry Street, on the confines of Devonshire. In a direction nearly parallel to it there ran another road from the forest of Exmoor, through Taunton, Bridgewater, and Axbridge, to Portishead, whence there was a *trajectus* across the Bristol Channel to the city of Isca Silurum, now Caerleon. There are enumerated upwards of twenty-three Roman encampments in this county. During the dominion of the Romans it formed part of their province of *Britannia Prima*. On the decline of their power, and on their evacuation of the country, in the fifth century,

* Such were Camalet, Hamden, Wellow, Coker, Chilcompton, Conquest, Wiveliscombe, Bath-Ford, Warley, Street, Long Ashton, Postlebury, South Petherton, Watgore, Wigborough, Yeovil, Putsham, Kilton, Stogumber, Edington, Inglishcombe, &c. Collinson's History and Antiquities of the County of Somerset, Vol. I. *Introduc.* p. xxxiii.

century, it became subject to the Saxons, who incorporated it with their kingdom of Wessex. It is noted as being one of the districts which earliest embraced the Christian faith; and, according to ancient records, King Ina, who began his reign over the West Saxons in 688, built a college at Wells, which was dedicated to God and the apostle St. Andrew.* His successor, King Kenulph, converted it into an episcopal see, and built the famous abbey of Glastonbury, which he dedicated to Christ and his apostles St. Peter and St. Paul. In those obscure and barbarous times the progress of Christianity must necessarily be slow and uncertain, for it was not only opposed by existing superstitions, but thwarted by sanguinary and destructive wars. The incursions of the Danes kept the country in a state of continual alarm, and at times threatened its total subjugation. In the reign of the great ALFRED, they desolated almost every province in Britain, and at length carried their ravages into the counties of Somerset, Wilts, and Hants, which had long remained safe against their encroachments. The young monarch was constrained to relinquish his throne and dignity, and to preserve himself by disguise and concealment. He retired to an obscure part of this county, and lived for some time in the house of a neatherd, being retained by him to take care of his cows. During his residence here, an incident occurred, which, though in itself trivial, has been deemed sufficiently interesting to merit a place in history. The neatherd's wife, ignorant of the rank of her guest, considered him as of no higher station than that to which he professed to belong, and treated him accordingly. One day, observing him busy by the fire-side trimming his bows and arrows, she desired him to watch some cakes that were baking on the hearth, while she attended to some other domestic matters. He, having greater subjects to occupy his mind, neglected his charge, and the good woman on her return, finding the cakes burnt, gave the king a severe scolding, and told him, that he was always ready enough to eat her warm cakes

* *Magna Britannia*, Vol. IV. p. 721.

cakes however careless he might be in baking them. It is stated, that he afterwards remembered the hospitality and kindness of his host, for, observing him to be a man of talent, he encouraged him to apply to learning, and made him Bishop of Winchester.*

When the pursuit and search of his enemies became less strict, he collected some of his faithful adherents, and retired to a spot of land a few acres in extent, surrounded by water and impassable marshes, at the conflux of the rivers Parret and Tone, in this county. Here he built a habitation, and constructed a long bridge, to connect his retreat with the neighbouring terra firma. The western end of the bridge was fortified by what would, in modern military terms, be called a *tête-de-pont*, which rendered hostile approaches impracticable.† This place he called Æthelingay, or the Isle of Nobles; which name, with a slight alteration, is still preserved, being now written Athelney. Out of this strong hold he made frequent and sudden incursions on the Danes, and maintained himself and his followers by the spoil he procured. From this period the tide of his affairs “led on to fortune.” After various successes, he defeated the combined armies of the Danes at Edington, and took their pagan king, Guthrum, prisoner, whom he brought to his court at Aller, and there obliged him to receive the rite of baptism. In gratitude for his success, he founded a monastery at Athelney, to the honour of St. Saviour and St. Peter, the apostle.

At the general division of the kingdom into shires and hundreds, this province retained the name of SOMERSETSHIRE, which the Saxons had given it; and which was probably derived from SOMERTON, at that time the chief town. According to other etymologists, it was so called on account of the mildness of its climate and the general fertility of its soil. These characteristics

* Asser, apud Hume's Hist. Eng. Vol. I. p. 80, 8vo. edition. Turner's Hist. Ang. Sax. Vol. I. p. 256, 4to. edit.

† Turner's Hist. ut sup.

racteristics might apply peculiarly to Somerton, and hence the appellation might be transferred to the territory around it.

In the Saxon times this county, as well as others, was subject to certain officary earls, who had authority to try and decide causes, and to punish malefactors, within their jurisdiction.* The first Earl of Somerset was a warlike chief, named *Hun*, who lived in the reign of King Egbert, whom he attended in the war which he waged against Beornulf, King of Mercia, and was slain in the battle of Ellendune, A.D. 823.† Earnulf, or Enwulfe, succeeded him, either by inheritance, or, as is more probable, by grant from King Ethelwolfe. After him this earldom appears to have been vacant for several years, until Sweyn, eldest son of Godwin, Earl of Kent, for some time held it. He was a man of violent temper and vicious disposition, of which he gave flagitious proofs, by seducing Edgiva, Abbess of Leominster, to marry him, and by treacherously murdering his kinsman, Beorne, son of the King of Denmark. For this last crime he was forced to fly into Flanders, and to remain there until Aldred, bishop of Winchester, obtained for him the royal pardon. In a subsequent part of his life he was induced, by remorse for the murder, to undertake the penance of walking, barefooted, to Jerusalem. He died at Licia, on his return from thence, of a severe cold, which his hardships brought on.

At the period of the Norman conquest, when the Saxon nobility were, for the most part, deprived of their honours and estates, this county was bestowed on several chiefs, who assisted in the enterprise of William, either with troops or pay. In this distribution, Sir William Mohun, an expert commander, obtained by far the greatest share; for, besides the castle of Dunster, he held sixty-one lordships, and had in his retinue no less than forty-seven stout and approved knights. He likewise received the title of Earl of Somerset, which devolved on his descendant, Sir Reginald de Mohun. In 1396, John Beaufort, eldest

* *Magna Britannia*, IV. 721.

† *Dugd. Bar.* i. 11. *Callinson's Hist. Introd.*

eldest son of John Plantagenet, of Gaunt, by Catherine Swinford, his third wife, was advanced to the earldom by Richard the Second, and in the following year was created Marquis of Dorset. His son succeeded him, but died without issue. In 1442, John Beaufort, brother of Sir Henry Beaufort, Knight of the Garter, was created Duke of Somerset. In 1472, the title expired in Edmund Beaufort, who was beheaded at the battle of Tewkesbury. The title was next bestowed on Edmund Tudor, the third son of Henry the Seventh, who died an infant; and afterwards on a bastard son of Henry the Eighth, named Henry Fitzroy, who likewise died without issue. In 1547, Edward Seymour, protector to the young King Edward the Sixth, was created Duke of Somerset, and Baron Seymour. He was beheaded on Tower Hill, in January, 1552. It is scarcely needful to mention, that James the First unworthily bestowed the title of Earl of Somerset on his favourite, Robert Carr, Viscount Rochester, who, with his lady, was convicted of the assassination of Sir Thomas Overbury, and was imprisoned, according to some accounts, till his death, in the year 1645. The infamous crimes of this wretch are a stain to nobility, and a perpetual disgrace to the monarch, whose partiality tended to foster the vices which produced them. In 1660, the title and dignity of Duke of Somerset were revived by parliament, and restored to William Seymour, Marquis of Hertford, great grandson to the Protector Seymour. This nobleman had been preceptor to Charles the First, and had afterwards distinguished himself by his attachment to the royal cause, for the support of which he raised troops in Somersetshire,* and fought bravely at the battle of Lansdown. So strong was his loyalty, that he even offered to lay down his own life for the unfortunate monarch, if it could have been admitted as a substitute. As the dukedom has ever since continued in one branch or other of his family, it is scarcely necessary to trace the descent through various successions, in consequence of occasional failure of issue, down to the present time.

During

* Mag. Brit. IV. 724.

During the civil wars, in the reign of Charles the First, this county had its full share of dissention and calamity. Although the Marquis of Hertford, as before stated, levied troops here for the royal cause, yet there is reason to believe that the parliament had many adherents among the people. Various skirmishes were fought, but no general engagement took place, except a pitched battle which was fought at Lansdown, near Bath, between the army of the parliament, under Sir William Waller, and the king's forces, under the marquis, in which Sir Bevil Grenville, a brave, experienced, and active commander, lost his life. The services which he rendered to the king's party in the west of England, and the great support which his abilities and influence gave it, caused his loss to be deeply lamented. Probably his death was of more consequence to his adversaries than a victory. In this action, observes Mr. Collinson, of two thousand horse the Marquis of Hertford lost one thousand five hundred, occasioned by a regiment of cuirassiers, commanded by Sir Arthur Haslerig, which were so completely armed, that they were called the regiment of lobsters. On the other hand, the marquis drove Sir William Waller from his post, and compelled him to retire into Bath.

This county was the principal theatre of the rebellion of the Duke of Monmouth, in 1685. On the causes which led to the enterprise of this ill-fated nobleman, it is not necessary here to enlarge, as they have been fully detailed in history, and have of late received further illustration from the pen of one of the ablest statesmen and most accomplished orators that this country ever produced.* It may suffice, therefore, briefly to narrate the progress and close of his expedition. He landed at Lyme, in Dorsetshire, with scarcely an hundred followers; but, such was his popularity, that numbers immediately flocked to his standard, and in four days he found himself at the head of two thousand horse and foot.† They consisted chiefly of the lower orders

* History of the early part of the reign of James the Second, by the Right Hon. Charles James Fox.

† Hume's Hist. Vol. VIII. 227. Toulmin's Hist. of Taunton, 131.

orders of people, whose feelings the proclamation he issued was most likely to rouse. It styled James the Second Duke of York, and denominated him a traitor, a tyrant, an assassin, and a popish usurper. It charged him with burning London, confederating with France, making war on Holland, and even with poisoning the late king his brother. This manifesto was, by order of parliament, publicly burnt, and a reward of five thousand pounds offered for Monmouth's head. The Duke of Albemarle, son of General Monk, being at that time lord-lieutenant of the county of Devon, was sent down to head the militia against him. He accordingly raised about four thousand, and marched them towards Axminster, where Monmouth and his forces then lay, but observing that his troops were not very hearty in the cause, and fearing that they might be disposed to favour the adversary, he thought proper to retire. The Duke of Monmouth had here an opportunity of materially advancing his interests, by pursuing and attacking his adversary; but he had not sufficient confidence in the steadiness of his newly-raised army. Advancing with them to Taunton, he received considerable reinforcements, and was welcomed by the people of the town with every demonstration of joy. Twenty-six young ladies presented him with a pair of colours, made at the expence of the townsmen. One of them who led the procession, advanced with a naked sword in one hand and a small Bible in the other, which she presented to the duke, along with the colours, making a short address, to which he made a suitable reply. While here he assumed the title of king, and asserted the legitimacy of his birth. His forces were augmented to six thousand; and numbers besides, who flocked to his standard, were obliged to be dismissed for want of arms. He proceeded to Bridgwater, Wells, and Frome, at all which places he was proclaimed. From this period his reverses began: instead of boldly advancing to strike a decisive blow, as the nature of his enterprise required, he suffered the energies and spirit of the people to abate, without making any attempt to revive them. Probably he was discouraged at finding that no persons of note joined him, and at being informed
that

that his confederate, the Duke of Argyle, who had caused an insurrection in Scotland, was defeated and taken. He received this intelligence while at Frome, and at the same time was informed of the advance of the king's forces from London, under the command of Feversham and Churchill. This disastrous news damped his hopes, and perplexed him so much, that he hesitated whether or not to abandon the enterprise entirely. Concern for the fate of his followers, who seemed determined to adhere to him through every change of fortune, induced him to make one grand struggle. He returned to Bridgwater, where being received with unabated attachment, he resolved to fortify and maintain his position, until he should receive news from London. The rapid approach of his opponents caused him to alter his plan. On Saturday, the 4th of July, 1685, intelligence was brought that the king's forces were encamped at Sedgemoor, within a mile and a half of his own army. On the following day he reconnoitred them, in company with Lord Grey and other officers, and perceiving their disposition to be extremely negligent and injudicious, he called a council of war, at which it was determined to commence the attack in the dead of night. A short time before midnight, therefore, the duke's forces, under conduct of a guide, marched out, and in about two hours commenced their attack on the royal tents. There was a ditch to ford, but the troops were so eager for action that they lost their guide, and in the confusion and delay which ensued, the enemy took the alarm and flew to their posts. A severe battle was fought, in which the duke's men displayed a degree of spirit and unanimity, which greatly compensated their want of discipline. They threw their more experienced adversaries into disorder, drove them from their ground, and continued the fight until their ammunition was spent. Unhappily, they were but ill supported by their cavalry; the horses, being unaccustomed to the noise of guns and drums, would not come up, so that two pieces of ordnance, out of four, were soon lost. Notwithstanding this disadvantage, the duke, who commanded the infantry,

fantry, continued to fight bravely, until Lord Grey riding up to him, cried out, "All is lost; it is time for you to shift for yourself." They both fled, and their forces retreated in disorder. Grey was seized next day in Dorsetshire, and the duke, who had taken the same road, was, on the eighth of July, found concealed under some straw and fern in a field, covered with a tattered cloak, which he had procured from a peasant in exchange for his own dress. Worn out with fatigue and hunger, and dejected with a sense of past misfortune and a prospect of future misery, he burst into tears when seized by his pursuers; and, in the sequel, used every means which submissive humiliation could dictate, to procure the king's forgiveness. James for a time listened to him, with a view to discover his accomplices; but Monmouth, spurning the idea of such treachery, and seeing no hope of mercy, prepared for his fate with firmness; and when brought to the scaffold behaved with great intrepidity.

In the vengeance which was subsequently inflicted on the persons who had favoured his enterprise, it might well be foreseen that the people of Somersetshire would be marked as principal victims. It is said, that immediately after the battle of Sedgemoor, Feversham, the victorious commander, caused above twenty prisoners to be immediately hanged; and was proceeding in his atrocities, when the Bishop of Bath and Wells informed him, that those unfortunate and deluded persons were by law entitled to a trial, and that such summary punishment was actual murder. Remonstrances of this kind were but of little avail; they were soon silenced by the severe and unrelenting measures of the tyrant, James, who sent the lord chief justice, Jefferies, and a body of troops under Colonel Kirk, into the western counties, with a special commission to try all who had by any means, direct or indirect, countenanced and assisted the Duke of Monmouth. The manner in which Jefferies executed his bloody commission, is a lamentable, but happily a rare instance of the cruelty and barbarism of which human nature is susceptible. At Dorchester, and afterwards at Exeter, the two
first

first stages of his cruelty, he warned the numerous prisoners to make a free confession, and thereby save him the trouble of trying them; and those who disobeyed were ordered to immediate execution. When he proceeded to Taunton and Wells, such was the effect of his menaces, that the juries gave their verdict with precipitation, and numbers of innocent persons were in consequence confounded with the guilty. Almost every market-town and village in the county was the scene of these iniquitous executions. The rites of sepulture were denied to the sufferers; their heads were stuck on the tops of houses and of steeples, and their mangled limbs were hung on trees, in sight of their lamenting relatives and friends. Even those who escaped the penalty of death were obliged to submit to the extortion of fines, which reduced them to beggary; and where they were already too poor to pay, they were sentenced to be whipped and imprisoned. The rigour of the merciless judge, or rather inquisitor, Jefferies, did not even spare the young ladies who had formed the procession before the Duke of Monmouth at Taunton. Miss Mary Blake was committed to Dorchester goal, for having made the colours, and she died there of the small-pox, which then raged in the prison. Another of these innocent victims of persecution presented herself in court, and implored the mercy of the judge, who frowned terribly upon her, and commanded the goaler to apprehend her. She died not many hours after.

When at length a general pardon was issued, these young ladies were included among the exceptions to it, and a demand of seven thousand pounds was made for their ransom. This sum was intended as a Christmas present to the maids of honour, in whose favour the Duke of Somerset interested himself. Sir Francis Warre, Bart. of Hestercombe, who was applied to for the purpose of causing the apprehension of the maidens and their mistress, humanely represented the matter in such a light, that further proceedings were relinquished. Considerable sums,

however, had already been levied from the parents of some of them.

But the military executions of Kirk exceeded the judicial cruelties of Jefferies, if not in extent at least in violence and barbarity. This officer had long resided at Tangier, and had heightened the natural ferocity of his disposition by copying the manners of the Moors. He had a command in the royal army at Sedgemoor. On the day after the battle he went to Taunton with a number of prisoners, and two cart-loads of wounded men, nineteen of whom he hanged while their wounds were yet bleeding, without allowing even a form of trial, or permitting their wives and children to take a last farewell of them. Those of his soldiers who were most active in doing his murderous deeds, were characterised by the appellation of *lamb*s, and were long afterwards remembered in the county with execration. Some of the acts of Kirk are marked with such a degree of wanton barbarity, that many persons find it impossible to attach entire credit to them. On one occasion, when he gave an entertainment to his officers, he is said to have ordered thirty men to be executed, by ten at a time, while the glass went round in three healths, one to the king, a second to the queen, and a third to Judge Jefferies. When the limbs of the sufferers were shaking in the last agonies of death, he cried out that they should have music to their dancing, and immediately ordered the drums to beat and the trumpets to sound. Another, and a more shocking outrage, laid to his charge, was his conduct to a beautiful young woman, who came to petition for the life of a person endeared to her by consanguinity or affection. Smitten by her charms, he offered to grant her supplication on the previous condition that she should yield to his desires; which being acceded to, he in the morning conducted the unhappy victim of his brutality to the window, and showed her the person for whom she had sacrificed her virtue hanging on a sign-post. Some doubts, however, are entertained of the credibility of this
horrid

horrid affair, but they are hardly of weight sufficient to counter-balance the generally received tradition of the place where it is said to have been perpetrated, and they are still less sanctioned by the well-known character of the man.* The bloody tragedy at length terminated, and the principal actors in due time received a just retribution for their crimes. A revolution, that restored the lost liberties of England, drove the tyrant James from his throne. Jefferies escaped the public visitation on his iniquities by dying in prison, and the monster, Kirk, after serving some time in the army of King William, descended to an ignominious grave with the terrors of an evil conscience, and the execrations of all good men. The subsequent affairs of the county, after this period, being no longer of that historical nature which requires general relation, will be detailed in the account of the places to which they respectively belong.

This maritime county is situate in the south-west of the kingdom, and has Bristol channel on the west, Gloucestershire, and Bristol city and county on the north, Wiltshire on the east, and Devonshire on the south and south-west. Its form is oblong, extending in length from north-east to south-west about eighty miles. Its breadth, from east to west, is about thirty-six miles, and the circumference somewhat above two hundred miles; the whole comprehending about one million of acres of land.†

The sea-coast is very irregular; in some places projecting into the sea in rocky promontories, and in others forming fine bays, with flat and level shores. From Stert Point, on the north, the coast is flat, and composed of vast sand banks, now serving to repel the frequent inundations of the sea, which in ancient times used to wash over these shoals, and even cover the extensive

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territory

* See a judicious note in Dr. Toulmin's History of Taunton, where the evidence relative to the transaction is stated and examined with great candour and impartiality.

† Billingsley's General View of the Agriculture of the County of Somerset, p. 11.

territory now called Brent March.* In the year 1304, to prevent the mischiefs caused by the inundations of the sea in these parts, it was judged expedient to establish a commission of sewers, that still continues, the members of which examine and inspect the sea banks, ditches, gutters, and sewers, connected with the sea, and order the proper cleansings and reparations from time to time to be made.

Of the *Hills* in this county, the principal chains are the *Quantock*, extending between Taunton and the Bristol Channel; *Brendon*, near Quantock; *Pouldon*, near Bridgwater; *Mendip*, between Frome and the coast; *Broadfield-Down*, between Bristol and Wrington; *Leigh-Down*, in the hundred of Portberry; *Dundry*, near Bristol; *Lansdown*, near Bath; *White-Down*, near Chard; and *Black-Down*, on the borders of Devonshire. The soil of these hills is thus described by Mr. Billingsley: Quantock, &c. a thin variable soil, covering a loose shelly rock, interspersed with occasional lime-stone; Poulden-hill, a strong surface, covering a bed of clay, or marl; Mendip-hills, Broadfield, and Leigh-Down, a gravelly loam, on a lime-stone rock; Lansdown, a free-stone grit; White-Down, variable; Black-Down, a thin surface of black earth on a bed of sand, or gravel. The principal detached mountains are *Dunkry Beacon*, in the hundred of Carhampton, near the sea; *Hamden*; *Montacute*; *St. Michael's*; *Brentknowle*; the *Tor*, near Glastonbury; *Bratton*, near Minehead; and *Snowden*, near Chard.

It is difficult to give a general character to the soil of this county, as almost every species (except chalk, of which there is but very little, and that in the eastern division) may be found in various parts of this county; generally, however, of a highly fertile and productive quality.

Although the *climate* of Somersetshire may, generally speaking, be denominated mild and genial, insomuch that near the sea-coast the winter is scarcely felt, in other parts of the county,

† Billingsley's General View, p. 12.

county, particularly in the northern districts, and about Poulden Hill, the weather is often very cold and boisterous. The air on the summit of the Mendip Hills is indeed extremely piercing during the greatest part of the year. This variety of climate naturally causes the seasons of seed-time and harvest to vary in different parts of the county: the mountainous districts being nearly a month later than the vales. On this account the farmers about Mendip, Quantock, and Brandon Hills, and in some other elevated situations, usually sow a fortnight earlier in the autumn, and as much later in the spring, than is generally customary in other parts of the county.

There are few districts of the kingdom possessing greater fertility than Somersetshire. It produces the most luxuriant herbage, and furnishes supplies for other markets without impoverishing its own. There is scarcely a town of note in the kingdom that does not derive advantage from the oxen, sheep, hogs, cyder, cheese, and butter, of this county. Owing, however, to the unfavourable climate of some parts, the greatest attention is paid to dairy, husbandry, and grazing. Hence large quantities of grain are constantly purchased from the counties of Wilts and Dorset, for which the inhabitants of those districts receive coal and cattle in return.

The ancient *Forests* are, Selwood, near Frome; Mendip, between Frome and the Bristol Channel; Exmoor, between the port of Watchet and the north-west part of Devon; Neroche, near Ilminster; and North-Petherton, near Bridgwater.*

This county is by no means deficient in mineral productions; as lead, copper lapis, calaminaris, manganese, coal, lime-stone, paving-stone, tiling-stone, free-stone, fuller's-earth; marl, and ochre, are found in various parts.

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The

* Mr. Billingsley, in 1797, states, that the parish of North-Petherton, being then converted to good arable and pasture land, might be estimated at the average annual value of forty shillings per acre. See Survey, &c. p. 15, note.

The principal Rivers are, the Lower Avon, Ax, Brue, Parret, Yow, Cale, Chew, Tone, Frome, Ivel, Ex, and Barl.

The *Lower Avon* is a navigable river, rising in the hilly district of North Wiltshire, not far from Wootton Bassett, on the borders of Gloucestershire; but various springs are assigned for its origin. Emerging from the hills, it makes a compass, to fall into the vale which leads from Christian Malford to Chippenham, after which its windings are numerous, owing to the hilly face of the country through which it flows, as it runs through the clothing district of Wiltshire, bordering upon that of Somersetshire, and for some space divides the counties. Its course is at first southward, and it makes a long compass by the west towards the north, and then to the west, and at last encircles the city of Bath on two sides, from whence it pursues nearly the same direction, with frequent meanderings, to Bristol. It then inclines to the north-west, as it conveys the abundant trade of that opulent city to the Severn, by its conflux constituting the Bristol Channel at King Road.*

The *Ax* rises in two small branches on the western side of the Mendip Hills, one of which has its source in the cavern called Wokey Hole, a natural perforation, not unlike the celebrated cavern of Derbyshire. Its short course is to the north-west, being joined by a little stream issuing from the high cliffs of Cheddar. Near the village of Axbridge this river is traversed by the western road from Bristol at Cross, after which it winds through a tract of marshes to fall into the Bristol Channel.† This river is in no part navigable.

The *Brue*, which is navigable about two miles, from the Bristol Channel to Highbridge, rises within the western border of Wiltshire. At first it flows south-west, and then to the north-west, meeting the Bristol Channel near the mouth of the *Parret*, in the bay of Bridgwater.

The

* See Mr. Skrine's pleasing and accurate Account of all the Rivers of note in Great Britain, pp. 233, 234.

† Ibid.

The *Parret* is navigable from Stert-point to Langport, about twenty miles. It forms a junction with the *Tone*, which is also navigable about eight miles from Taunton to Boroughbridge, near the centre of the county. It rises at South-Parret, in Dorsetshire, from whence it flows south-east by Crewkerne, and the borders of Dorsetshire. Joined by the *Tone*, which rises in the Quantock hills, near Wyverscombe, it proceeds in a north-westerly direction, traversing the Marsh of Sedgemoor, to Bridgwater Bay.

The rivers not navigable, are, of course, of less note, they all flow through rich and fertile tracts, and many of their banks are ornamented by extensive grounds, belonging to the various seats of the nobility and gentry, with which this extensive county abounds. These several rivers furnish trout, salmon, roach, dace, perch, eels, pike, gudgeon, carp, and tench. On the sea coast there are tublin, flounders, sandabs, hakes, pipers, shrimps, prawns, crabs, muscles, soles, herrings, plaice, porpoises, skaits, and star-fish.

Mr. Collinson mentions the following birds, as the most remarkable: (viz.) the heath-hen, wild-duck, curlew, rail, gull, and wheat-ear; and adds, that in Exmoor, and other lower parts of the county, are abundance of red-deer.*

Somersetshire is fertile in rare and curious plants: Collinson enumerates upwards of one hundred and twenty, and states, that on the hills and desert wastes there are the dwarf juniper, the cranberry, and the whortleberry, called by the natives *hurts*. It produces a pleasing fruit, growing singly like gooseberries, on little plants, from a foot to eighteen inches in length. The leaves are ovated, and of a pale green, growing alternately on the branches. The rocks on the coast have great quantities of lava, *lichen marinus*, or sea-bread. In the moors, which were once inundated by the sea, grows the gale, or candleberry-myrtle.†

* History, &c. I. Introduction, xvii.

† Col. ubi supra.

This county, according to its ecclesiastical and civil division, contains forty hundreds, seven liberties, two cities,* seven boroughs, twenty-nine market-towns, one bishoprick, three archdeaconries, thirteen deaneries, and four hundred and eighty-two parishes,

The county is ecclesiastically divided into three archdeaconries, viz.

BATH, wherein are two deaneries—

Bath	in which are	24 parishes.
Redcliff and Bedminster	ditto	53

WELLS, wherein are seven deaneries—

Axbridge	in which are	36
Cary	ditto	55
Frome	ditto	47
Jurisdiction of Glaston	ditto	20
Ilchester	ditto	36
Marston	ditto	28
Pawlet	ditto	7

TAUNTON, wherein are four deaneries—

Bridgwater	in which are	31
Crewkerne	ditto	55
Dunster	ditto	44
Taunton	ditto	46

Total number of parishes 482

The county, with regard to its temporal jurisdiction, is divided into two parts, eastern and western. The eastern division contains the following hundreds and liberties, viz.

Hundreds—Bath Forum, Bemstone, Brewton, Brent cum Wrington, Catash, Chew, Chewton, Frome, Glaston, Twelve Hides, Hareclive cum Bedminster, Horethorne, Keynsham, Kilmersdon, Norton Ferrers, Portbury, Wellow, Wells-Forum, Whitstone, and Winter Stoke.

Liberties

* It will be observed, that the city of Bristol, for a reason which will hereafter appear, is not included in this list.

Liberties—Hampton and Claverton, Easton and Amrill, Hinton and Norton, East Cranmore, Hillhouse, Mells and Leigh, Witham Friery.

The western division contains : *Hundreds*—Abdick and Bulston, Andersfield, Cannington, Carhampton, Crewkerne, Curry North, Houndsborough, Berwick and Coker, Huntspill cum Puriton, Kingsbury East, Kingsbury West, Martock, Milverton, Petherton North, Petherton South, Pitney, Somerton, Stone and Yeovil, Taunton and Taunton Dean, Tintinhull, Whitley, Williton-Freemanors.*

The *Church History* of Somersetshire, properly speaking, commences with the installation of Athelm, a Monk of Glastonbury, to the see of Wells,† in the reign of the Anglo-Saxon monarch, Edward the Elder, in the early part of the tenth century. During this reign, for some unknown reason, probably merely to shew the extent of his power, Pope Formosus took it into his head to excommunicate the whole nation. This dreadful, or ridiculous sentence, continued in force during a period of seven years; by which several sees became vacant. At length the degraded monarch, rousing from his spiritual sloth, determined to call a synod, to consider the state of the church; and Plegmund, Archbishop of Canterbury, received commands to that purpose. At this synod it was decreed, that whereas before there were only two bishopricks in the kingdom of Wessex, Winchester and Shirburne, three new ones should be erected, (viz.) Wells, Crediton, and St. Petrock. To effect this pious purpose, Plegmund was sent to Rome, to procure the excommunication to be removed, and have the new bishops confirmed. This matter having been accomplished, seven bishops were consecrated in one day, among whom was the monk Athelm, already mentioned.‡ Thus was laid the foundation of a religious establishment, which has since grown to so great an extent. But we will

* Collinson's Hist. Introduc. li.

† Vide ante, p. 341.

‡ Magna Britannia, IV. 837.

will go more into detail when we come to treat of these sees in succession.

As a general view of the *Political Economy* of this county, it may be stated, that there are at least 991,360 acres of land; 330,000 of which are arable, 534,500 pasture, 126,860 of commons, heaths, woods, wastes, roads, &c. The population, according to the last census, in 1801, amounts to 273,750; of which 126,927 are males, 146,823 females; and, of these classes, 61,434 were returned as employed in the different branches of agriculture, and 54,053 in trade and commerce. The paupers, in 1805, amounted to 33,979; and the poor's rates, in 1803, were 151,237l. at 4s. 2d. in the pound. The property assessment, in 1806, amounted to the sum of 4,055,356l.

The following is the state of the *parliamentary representation*: for the county, two members; Bath, two; Bridgwater, two; Bristol, two; Ilchester, two; Milborne Port, two; Minehead, two; Taunton, two; Wells, two: in all, eighteen members.

BATH,

the principal ornament of the west of England, and one of the finest cities in the kingdom, and indeed in Europe, owes its origin and importance to its medicinal springs. The discovery of their efficacy was for a long time ascribed to King Bladud, in one of those fabulous traditions which are so characteristic of the early ages, and the belief of which prevails in succeeding generations long after its absurdity has been demonstrated. Bladud, according to the least unreasonable version of the fable, was the son of Lud Hudibras, who was king of Great Britain about five and twenty centuries ago. In his youth he accidentally became infected with the *leprosy*, and, at the petition of the courtiers, who feared the contagion, was banished by his father from the palace. The queen on his departure gave
him

him a ring, as a token by which he should make himself known to her if he ever recovered. The young prince did not go far into exile before he met with an asylum; for when he had reached Keynsham, a village about six miles distant from the site of the present city, he met with a swineherd, to whom having tendered his services, he was retained as an assistant. A short time after he had entered on his employment, he perceived that he had tainted the pigs with his leprosy. To conceal this misfortune from his master, he contrived to gain permission to drive the herd to the opposite side of the Avon, under pretext that the acorns there were finer, and in greater abundance. Passing the river at a ford, which has since been denominated Swineford, he led his herd to the hills on the north side of Bath. While he was addressing his prayers to the rising sun, that the wrath of heaven might be averted, the pigs, impelled by a sudden phrenzy, ran up the valley to the spot where the hot springs, boiling up, mixed their waters with the decayed weeds and foliage, and formed a bog. In this warm oozy bed the pigs began to roll and wallow with delight, nor could their keeper allure them away, until extreme hunger pressed them to follow him. On washing them, he perceived that some had shed their white scurf; and he had not been many days longer in these parts, ere he perceived that one of his best sows, which had been long wandering in the mire about the waters, was perfectly cured. Bladud, being a man of strong natural parts, was qualified to reason rightly upon this fact; he judged that the remedy which had succeeded in a particular instance, would prove efficacious for the swinish multitude in general, to which he, since his exile, might naturally be supposed to belong. Accordingly, stripping himself naked, he alternately rolled in the mud and washed in the waters, and, after a few repetitions, of the experiment, came out perfectly sound. Re-animated by this good fortune, he drove home his pigs, returned to court, and, shewing his ring, was recognized with rapture, and restored to

his

his former rank and dignity. His father afterwards determined on sending him to Athens, to improve his natural genius at that celebrated seat of learning. A splendid retinue was ordered to attend him; but Bladud preferred to travel as a private person, and considered the parade of grandeur as an impediment to the acquisition of knowledge. After devoting eleven years to the study of literature, mathematics, and necromancy, he returned to Britain, was appointed regent during his father's old age, and succeeded to the throne after his death. One of his first public works was the erection of a city near the springs, which thenceforward became the capital of the British monarchs. In his old age he devoted himself to the formation of visionary projects; the most daring of which was the construction of a pair of wings to fly with. In one of his attempts he fell, and broke his neck; much to the grief of his subjects, who had enjoyed the blessings of his wise government for more than twenty years.*

This account of the origin of Bath was for a long time popular; but the enquiries of the most learned and intelligent antiquaries of the present day have proved it unworthy of credit, and have adduced reasons to conclude that the city was founded by the Romans, about the middle of the first century, in the reign of the Emperor Claudius.

The form of the city, according to the mode of building usually adopted by those people, approached to a parallelogram, extending on one side so as to form an outline somewhat pentagonal, and stretching in length, from east to west, about four hundred yards, and in the broadest parts, from north to south, about three hundred and eighty yards. The wall, which enclosed this space, appears, from subsequent discoveries, to have been twenty feet above ground in height, and in thickness sixteen feet at the base, and eight at the summit, strengthened with five towers, rising at the angles, and having four *portæ*,
or

* Wood's "Essay towards a Description of Bath," ch. ix. p. 9—71; cited in Mr. Warner's History of Bath, p. 11.

or entrances, facing the cardinal points, which were connected by two grand streets, dividing the city into four parts, and intersecting each other at the centre.* Not far from the point of intersection were the springs, which the Romans converted into magnificent baths, by attaching to them suitable edifices, which, when complete, extended two hundred and forty feet from east to west, and one hundred and twenty from north to south. The Roman-Greek appellation of the city was *Θερμακὸν ὕδατα*, which was afterwards changed into one more expressive of the genial heat and vigour derived from them, *Aquæ Solis*, the *waters of the sun*. It soon became a principal station of the Romans in these parts; roads were constructed to communicate with the neighbouring posts and encampments, and, in the words of Mr. Collinson, "a little Rome began to adorn a dreary and inhospitable wild." Agricola passed a winter here, after his successful campaign in Wales; and Adrian, about thirty years afterwards, erected here a *fabrica*, or college of armourers, in which military weapons, for the use of the legions, were manufactured. About the year of our Lord 208, Geta, the younger son of Septimius Severus, is said to have resided in Bath, while his father was absent in Caledonia, quelling an insurrection. Some complimentary statues were raised on this occasion, and the same adulatory spirit which produced them, was displayed during the joint reign of Diocletian and Maximian, by the erection of altars to the two emperors, under the characters of Jove and Hercules. These divine honours were soon followed by the loss of the province of Britain, through the usurpation of Carausius, who held it for seven years, when he was murdered by his prime minister, Alectus. No remarkable particulars relative to the history of Bath, occur between this period and that of the evacuation of Britain by the Romans, which took place about the middle of the fifth century. It may justly be presumed, that they left this favourite city with a reluctance proportioned to the

* Warner's History, p. 21. "Historical and Descriptive Account of Bath and its Environs," printed by R. Cruttwell, 1802. p. 7.

the pains they had taken in embellishing and adorning it. Fragments of masonry, inscriptions, coins, &c. remain to attest the importance which this capital acquired in their time, both as a military station and as a favourite residence for families, unconnected with affairs of war, and devoted to the cultivation of the arts of peace.

Among the public edifices which *Aquæ Solis* contained, the most eminent was the temple dedicated to Minerva. It stood on the eastern side of the great fosse way, running through the city from north to south, and nearly mid-way betwixt the *Porta Decumana*, and the *Porta Flumentana*, which led to the river. Its western front consisted of a portico, supported by very large fluted columns, of the Corinthian order, crowned with rich capitals. The architraves were charged with inscriptions to the *Sulivæ*, the *Deæ campestres*, and other local deities, and the frieze was enriched with gigantic images of birds and beasts, and groupes of foliage.* Behind this temple, towards the east, stood the splendid Roman baths before-mentioned, the foundations of which were discovered in the year 1755, at the depth of twenty feet beneath the surface of the ground. A description of these remains, cited by Mr. Warner, from Mr. Collinson's History, has given rise to a curious discussion from the pen of a learned antiquary, in which it is argued, that the edifice, when perfect, was "the palace of that Roman who was the commandant of the colony at Bath,"† and that the baths were only subordinate parts of the residence. But, with all deference to so respectable an authority, may it not be presumed that a city, which derived its very name from its medicinal springs, should have one public building for the express purpose of using them; and is it probable, that a resource so necessary to the health of the colonists in general, should be appropriated solely to the convenience

* Collinson, Vol. I. p. 8.

† See a Critique on Warner's History of Bath, in the Anti-Jacobin Review, Vol. X. pp. 115—131, 225—242, 335—356, ascribed to the pen of Mr. Whitaker, the ingenious hisorian of Manchester.

convenience of their chief? The question, however, is too particular in its nature, and at the same time leads to too great a field of detail, to be fully examined in a work of this kind; and it must therefore be left to such readers as are curious in these researches, to examine the authorities cited, to compare the hypotheses, and to judge for themselves.

Of the various remains of Roman grandeur discovered from time to time, the following specimens are preserved, and deposited, by order of the corporation, in a small building erected for the purpose at the end of Bath Street.

The pediment of the Temple of Minerva, a grand piece of masonry, the tympanum of which exhibits the head of Medusa surrounded by circular fillets of olive and oak leaves. The helmet, owl, and other emblems, ascertain the deity to whom this edifice was dedicated. With it are various cornices, friezes, pilasters, portions of fluted pillars, and other fragments belonging to the same temple.

The pediment of a *Sacellum*, or little temple, dedicated to Luna, with a broad, full female countenance in the centre, encircled by a crescent.

A *Διῶμος*, or altar consecrated to two gods. The deities honoured in this piece of sculpture are *Jupiter* and *Hercules bibax*; It was probably set up in Bath during the joint reign of Dioclesian and Maximian, the former of whom affected the name of Jove, the latter that of the Tyrian Hero. The coarseness of the workmanship proves it to be a production of the latter empire.

The representation of Geta on horseback, a basso relievo. The upper part of this stone only is come down to us, containing the body of the prince and the head of his horse.

A basso relievo of *Carausius*, dressed in a *chlamys*, which is fastened on the right shoulder with a *fibula* or clasp. A rudely-carved dolphin on the upper part of the stone seems to point out the profession of the person represented, that of a naval officer.

Two fragments of a portal: one representing a genius with a *strigil* (or instrument used in the baths) in his hand; the other a similar intelligence, with a bunch of grapes.

A *Pyla*, or *Columella*, a small plain pillar, which formerly supported the statue of a deity. Its height is between three and four feet.

A sepulchral *Cippus*, commemorating *Caius Calpurnius*, a priest of the goddess *Sulinis* (the local name of Minerva at Bath), who died at the age of seventy-five; the inscription is as follows: *Diis Manibus. Caius Calpurnius receptus Sacerdos Deæ Sulinis vixit ann. lxxv. Calpurnia Conjux faciendum curavit.*

A votive altar dedicated to the above-mentioned deity, about thirty inches high, and twelve wide, with this inscription: *Deæ Sulini Minervæ Sulinus Maturi filius votum solvit libens merito.*

A votive altar consecrated by a *Libertus*, or manumitted slave, to the same goddess, in discharge of a vow made for the restoration of his master Aufidius Maximus, a soldier of the sixth legion. *Deæ Sulini pro salute et incolumitate Aufidii Maximi legionis VI^{TE} victricis militis Aufidius ejus Libertus votum solvit libens merito.*

Another altar of a similar kind, and consecrated by the same person, in return for the additional privilege of heirship conferred on him by his master. It bears this inscription. *Deæ Sulini pro salute et incolumitate Marci Aufidii Maximi legionis VI^{TE} victricis Aufidius ejus adoptatus heres Libertus votum solvit libens merito.*

An inscription carved under the relief figure of a horse-soldier, trampling upon a prostrate foe: only the lower moiety of the figure is preserved. The person represented was a soldier of the Vettonensian horse, a Spanish body, and citizen of Caurium, a town in Lusitania. The inscription runs thus—*Lucius Vitellius Mantani filius Tancinus Cives Hispaniæ Cauriensis Equitum Alæ Vettonum Centurio Annorum XLVI. Stipendiorum XXVI. Hic situs est.*

A votive

A votive altar dedicated to the Cretan Jupiter, Mars, and Nemetona, a local deity; erected by one of the strangers (a native of Treves in Germany) who had visited *Aquæ Solis*, and probably received some benefit from its waters. The inscription is: *Peregrinus Secundi filius Civis Treveris Jovi Cretico Marti et Nemetonæ votum solvit libens merito.*

A sepulchral monumental stone to the memory of Julius Vitalis, a native of Belgic Britain, and a stipendiary of the twentieth legion, who died at Bath, in the ninth year of his service, and the twenty-ninth of his age. He belonged to the *fabrica*, or college of armourers, established in this colony, mentioned a few pages back, and was probably buried at the expence of the community. The inscription is as follows: *Julius Vitalis Fabriciensis Legionis Vicesimæ Valerianæ Victricis Stipendiorum Novem Annorum Viginti Novem Natione Belga ex Collegio Fabricæ elatus. Hic situs est.*

A monumental stone commemorating the pious act of Caius Severius, a discharged veteran (having completed his twenty years of service) and centurion, who had restored and rededicated a temple which had fallen into disuse and decay. The inscription runs thus: *Locum Religiosum per insolentiam erutum virtute inauguratum repurgatum reddidit Caius Severius Emeritus centurio posuit ergo gratiæ.*

An altar dedicated to the *Sulivæ*, the *Deæ campestres*, or local rural deities of the country round Bath. The inscription is: *Sulevis Sulinus Scultor Bruceti filius Sacrum fecit libens merito.*

A votive altar to the memory of a discharged veteran belonging to the twentieth legion, who died at the age of forty-five. Gaius Tiberius, his heir, erected this testimony of his affection for his deceased patron. The inscription is imperfect.

Several fragments of the hollow or tubellated tile, and one perfect one, used by the Romans, for the vapour channels which heated their hypocausts.*

* See Historical Account, &c. p. 11—16.

The coins which have been found are principally those of Claudius, Vespasian, Domitian, Trajan, Adrian, Antoninus Pius, Severus, Gordian, Gallienus, Dioclesian, Maximian, Carausius, and Constantine; few, if any of them, have on their reverses any allusion to the city. A curious and beautiful head was, in the month of July, 1727, dug up, at the depth of sixteen feet from the surface of the ground, in Stall Street. It is of bronze, and of excellent workmanship, being part of a mutilated statue, which is by some supposed to be still lying buried near the same spot. This statue, in the opinion of Mr. Warner, represented the god Apollo, and probably stood in a temple dedicated to him, near the place where the above fragment was discovered; but the learned antiquary who criticises his work, is of opinion that the head belonged to Minerva; and affirms, that there is not a single evidence of any temple to Apollo having ever existed at Bath.* This interesting piece of antiquity is now preserved in the Guildhall. Among the ruinous foundations of the city, various other reliques have from time to time been dug up; vast masses of sculptured stone, columns, capitals, architraves, and friezes of huge buildings; tessellated pavements, bricks of various shapes and dimensions; pateræ, urns, vases, lachrymatories, silver and brass instruments of various kinds, which have been occasionally sold to strangers frequenting the place. At Walcot, and at the hermitage of Mr. Thicknesse, under Lansdown, where there were burial places for the Roman soldiery, great quantities of urns, fibulæ, armillæ, chains, &c. have been found.

After the final evacuation of Britain by the Romans, Bath, with a few other considerable cities in the western parts of the island, remained in a state of comparative tranquillity until the year 493,† when a large army of Saxons, under the command of Ælla, and his three sons, Cymenus, Pleting, and Cissa, encamped on Lansdown, and laid siege to this favourite seat of their

* Antijac. Rev. Vol. X. p. 340.

† Warner's Hist. p. 41.

their predecessors in conquest. At this period the heroic Arthur, in whose history so many romantic fables are blended,* was performing wonders to rescue his countrymen from the yoke of their new oppressors. Being apprized of the operations of the Saxon general, he hastened after him, and reaching his camp before he had taken the city, attacked and defeated him in a bloody and obstinate battle. About twenty-seven years afterwards, he again delivered Bath from the assaults of these ferocious invaders, by defeating a powerful army under Colgrine, Cheldrick, and Bladulfe, lieutenants of the Saxon chief Cerdic, on which occasion he is said to have slain four hundred and forty men with his own hand. These glorious efforts only served to retard the subjugation of *Aquæ Solis*; for in the year 577, the Saxon leaders, Ceaulin and Cuthwin, the former of whom was king of Wessex, led their armies towards the north-east of Somersetshire, and advanced to Dyrham, a village about eight miles from the city. Here they encountered the three British kings, Commail, Candidan, and Farinmail, who had united their forces to defend the yet unsubdued part of Britain. After a bloody engagement, the arms of the Saxons prevailed, and the royal residences of Bath, Gloucester, and Cirencester, were numbered among their conquests.

The name which the Romans had given the city was now translated into *Hat Bathun*, hot baths; and the efficacy of its waters, in the cure of diseases, subsequently gained it the characteristic appellation of *Akemanceaster*, the city of sick men. The Christian religion, which had been partially introduced previous to its conquest, was now openly promulgated; and in the year 676, a monastery was established, through the influence of Osric, the Saxon king of the Huicii. The town was annexed to the kingdom of Wessex, and received the privilege

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of

* Hic est Arthurus de quo Brittonum nugæ hodieque delirant; dignus planè quem non fallaces somniarent fabulæ, sed veraces prædicarent historiæ; quippe qui labentem patriam diu sustinuerit, infractasque civium mentes ad bellum acuerit.—Will. Malm. de Gest. &c. p. 8.

of a Saxon burgh, having its *Gerefa* or *reeve*, who presided over a monthly meeting of the *folcmote*. In the year 775, Bath was seized by Offa, king of Mercia, who restored to it a degree of its former splendour, by repairing the devastations made during the period of its subjection to the prince of Wessex. It is said that he discovered only the name of Osric's monastery remaining, which directed him to a spot whereon to found a college of secular canons. A dismal chasm in its history now occurs: during the incursions of the Danes, it seems to have sunk into obscurity, from which it did not emerge until the reign of Athelstan, who established a mint here, or at least granted permission to strike coins, and augmented the property of the monastery by the donation of fifteen small estates, on condition that the monks were to offer up daily masses in behalf of the king. Edgar, who was inaugurated and anointed here by Archbishop Dunstan, after having performed the penance of omitting to wear his crown for the space of seven years, which that prelate imposed on him, testified his regard for the town by the grant of several privileges, for which the inhabitants long commemorated their gratitude in the festivals they held on the anniversary of his coronation.*

While the Danes continued masters of England, their monarchs occasionally resided at Bath. Several coins struck here by Canute the Great are still preserved. After the restoration of the Saxon line, according to a survey of the kingdom made by Edward the Confessor, which formed the precedent for Domesday Book, it appears that Bath was assessed at twenty hides, and paid towards the Danegelt the sum of two pounds. During part of the Confessor's reign it was held by Editha, his
amiable

* "They pray in all their ceremonies for his soule, and at Whitsonday tide, at the whych time men say that Eadgar ther was crownid, ther is a king elected at Bath every yere of the tounes men in the joyful remembrance of king Eadgar and the privileges gyven to the toun by him. This king is festid, and his adherentes, by the richest man of the tounne." Leland. Itin. ii. 32.

amiable, but unfortunate consort, having formed a portion of her dower. After the disgrace and banishment of her father, Earl Godwin, she was confined by her cruel lord in the monastery of Wherwell, in Hampshire; and Bath thus reverting to the crown, continued therein until the termination of the Anglo Saxon dynasty. It was numbered, by William the Conqueror, among the royal demesnes. In the succeeding reign it was plundered and burnt, during the insurrection of Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, Geoffrey, Bishop of Coutance, Robert de Mowbray, and other Norman lords, who favoured the claim of Robert, Earl of Normandy, to the crown. It owed its restoration to the liberality of John de Villula, a native of Tours, who purchased it of Rufus, in 1090, for five hundred marks.* Having obtained permission to remove the pontifical seat from Wells thither, he rebuilt the monastery and church, restored the public and private edifices, and thus became the founder of a new city on the ruins of the old one. Henry the First confirmed and extended the privileges which his predecessor had granted, by adding the hidage of the city; and, in 1106, Villula, now Bishop of Bath, conferred the whole, with its appurtenances, on the monastery of St. Peter, appointing it to be governed by a prior in the room of an abbot, and reserving the patronage to himself and his successors in the see. Henry paid a visit to Bath in the Easter of 1107.

The city remained in the possession of the bishops until 1193, when Savaric gave it to Richard the First, in exchange for the rich Abbey of Glastonbury, which was added to his see. The prior, however, still continued to hold the city under an annual rent of thirty pounds, exclusive of the levies which were made by the king on extraordinary emergencies. One of these occurred in the forty-seventh year of Edward the Third, to the

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amount

* “ This man, though nothing more than an empiric, had found means to accumulate a large fortune by practising physick, and imposing upon the ignorance and credulity of the invalids who flocked to the healing waters of this city, in search of ease and health.” Warner’s Hist. p. 63.

amount of 13l. 6s. 8d. a sum which conveys an idea of the inferiority of Bath, in point of population, to Bristol, which paid seven times as much. By a census taken four years after that period, it appears that the number of lay inhabitants in the city, above the age of fourteen, amounted to five hundred and seventy, and that of the clerics in the arch-deaconry to two hundred and one. In this and succeeding reigns the property of the monastery was greatly augmented, by the munificence of monarchs and of private individuals, who sought to purchase peace with heaven by enriching their spiritual guides. The wealth thus accumulated was at first applied to useful purposes; and the monks of Bath are mentioned as honourable exceptions to that general character of indolence which attached to the ecclesiastics of the fourteenth century. They are said to have cultivated and encouraged the manufacture of cloth to such an extent as to render Bath one of the principal cities in the west of England for that important branch of trade. From these laudable habits, however, they gradually degenerated into luxury and sloth, and, in the reign of Henry the Seventh, the good bishop, Oliver King, on obtaining the see of Bath and Wells, found it necessary to institute severe regulations to correct the abuses which prevailed among them. He introduced a rigid economy into the different establishments, and diminished the stipends of the several officers. Nor were these the only measures of reform which he instituted; for as the monks had suffered their church to go to ruin, he undertook at his own expence to build a new one, and exhausted a great portion of his fortune in this pious work. At length the period arrived when monastic institutions were to be dissolved; and, in 1539, that of Bath shared the common fate. The site of the abbey was granted by Henry the Eighth to Humphrey Colles, who afterwards disposed of it to Matthew Colethurst. His son Edmund presented the abbey church, which was then become ruinous, having been stript of its lead, glass, iron, and bells, to the mayor and citizens of Bath, for their parochial church,

with

with certain ground about it for a church-yard.* He sold the abbey-house, with the park called Prior's Park, to Fulk Morley, from whose descendants the former estate devolved through the late Duke of Kingston, to the present Lord Newark; and the latter through the Allens to the present Lord Hawarden.†

This city sent members to parliament as early as the year 1297. In those days the advantages derived from having a share in the national representation were attended with a heavy charge on the burgesses, who generally defrayed the expences of their members. For these reasons Bath declined the honour of sending representatives during two successive parliaments, in the first and second years of Edward the Second. In the succeeding reign the citizens purchased, by a fine of twenty pounds, the privilege of appointing their own assessors and collectors of the public levies, which was extremely valuable, on account of the abuses practised in the taxation of those times. Originally all the royal grants were addressed to the citizens at large, all of whom had the right of assembling in the Guildhall, and of voting on every public measure. Strangers, and persons descended from such as were not citizens, though excluded from this right, might qualify themselves for it by paying a small fine, and by taking an oath of obedience to the mayor of Bath and his successors. In process of time it became expedient to depute the older and more experienced citizens to transact the affairs of the burgh, under the authority of the mayor. Persons were at first reluctant to become members of this deputation, since the office involved much trouble, and produced little advantage; but as the condition of society improved, the public opinion changed, and the appointment was considered as desirable. To put an end to litigations respecting it, Queen Elizabeth, in 1590, granted a charter to the members of this select body, which declared Bath to be a city of itself, and constituted a certain number of the citizens as a corporation, by the

* Collinson's Hist. Vol. I. p. 53.

† Historical Account, &c. p. 25.

the name of "the Mayor, Aldermen, and Citizens of the City of Bath," to whom were assigned a variety of franchises and immunities. In the year 1794 a new charter was granted by his present majesty, with a trifling extension of ancient privileges.

During the civil wars, in the reign of Charles the First, Bath was fortified for the king, at an expence of seven thousand pounds ; but it was seized by the Earl of Bedford, who also took possession of a great part of the county. It was here that Sir William Waller shortly afterwards stationed his forces, and, as we have before stated, retired within its walls after the battle of the fifth of July, 1643, on the summit of Lansdown. After the battle of Roundway Down, where Waller was defeated, the city was again put in possession of the Royalists, who held it for nearly two years, when it was gained by the parliament, through treachery of the governor, and remained under its controul until the Restoration. The inhabitants on that occasion testified their loyalty by public rejoicings. In the reign of James the Second, the corporation shut the gates of the city against the Duke of Monmouth, when he summoned them ; and apprehended the few adherents to his cause that remained within their walls. Six of these unfortunate persons afterwards fell victims to the vindictive cruelty of Jefferies. It appears that the Jacobite principles prevailed at Bath long after the Revolution ; and Carte, the historian, is said to have headed a party in favour of the Pretender, during the rebellion of 1715. His designs being discovered, he escaped apprehension by leaping out of a window in his canonicals, and taking to flight. From this period no great events of a political nature are connected with the history of Bath ; and it has since been resorted to principally by the votaries of pleasure, or the victims of indisposition. It has been honoured by the visits of more crowned heads than any place of similar size in the kingdom. The following monarchs and princes have occasionally resided here : Osric, Offa, and most of the princes of the Saxon line ; William Rufus, Henry the First, Henry the Second, Edward the First, Edward the

the Second, Edward the Third, Henry the Fourth, Henry the Seventh, Edward the Sixth, Elizabeth, James the First, Charles the First, Charles the Second, James the Second, and his Queen; Frederick Prince of Wales, and his consort; the Princess Amelia; his Royal Highness the present Prince of Wales, who visited Bath, and accepted its freedom, in 1796.

Bath, as to its present state, may be considered in two distinct points of view:—it may be regarded as a city of great beauty and increasing interest, and as the most frequented and fashionable watering-place in the kingdom. It stands in the hundred of Bath Forum, at the north-eastern extremity of the county, nearly surrounded by an amphitheatre of hills of considerable height. This range of hills opens to allow a course for the Avon, which winds round the city, receiving abundant articles of merchandize, from thence conveyed in barges to the neighbouring port of Bristol. The singular situation of this enchanting city gives a most delightfully picturesque effect to the views around it. Indeed, the city itself has this effect. The progressive elevations of the houses, rising above each other in admirable succession, the gaiety, particularly during the summer season, of its inhabitants, and the modern elegance of its numerous public buildings, altogether entitle it to the appellation of one of the finest cities of Europe.

“ Viewed under the influence of a meridian sun, and through the medium of an unclouded atmosphere, Bath presents to the sight and imagination every thing that is united with the idea of perfect beauty; and so strong is the impression it makes on the mind of almost all people at first sight, that the prepossession is converted into opinion; and when enveloped in those exhalations which arise from its salubrious springs, it is still called to mind in all its loveliness and attractions.”*

This city is divided into four parishes: St. Peter and St. Paul,
St.

* A Picturesque Guide to Bath, Bristol Hot-wells, the River Avon, and the adjacent Country,” &c. by Mess. Ibbetson, Laporte, and J. Hassell. pp. 36, 37.

St. James, St. Michael, and Walcot, exclusive of the out parishes of Bath-Hampton, Bath-Wick, Bath-Ford, and Bath-Easton. The parish of St. Peter and St. Paul occupies the centre of the city, and formerly contained two churches, the Abbey Church, and the church of St. Mary of Stall, which stood on the spot of ground now occupied by the houses connected with the Pump-room Piazza. This church of St. Mary of Stall was, in the year 1236, appropriated by William Batten, the Bishop of Bath and Wells, together with the chapel of Widcombe, to the prior and monks of Bath; but at the dissolution, the vicarage of Stalls, with its appendant, the chapel of Widcombe, was incorporated with the rectory of the Abbey Church, and has ever since been given with that preferment.

The Abbey Church of Bath is of that class of architecture commonly denominated the "Florid Gothic," though partaking very little of that character. It was the last building, of equal magnitude, purely Gothic, and remains in the same form as when finished in 1532.* It was founded by Oliver King, Bishop of Bath and Wells, who died thirty years before its completion, and reflects great credit on his taste and judgment. The principal dimensions are as follow: length from east to west, two hundred and ten feet; length of the cross aisles from north to south, one hundred and twenty-six feet; breadth of the body and aisles, seventy-two feet; height of the tower, one hundred and fifty-two feet; and the height of the roof, or vaulting, seventy-eight feet. These dimensions have been examined by Mr. Carter's plan.† The interior of this elegant church is thus described by Mr. Warner, who has copied an account of the western front, drawn up by a committee of the Society of Antiquaries:

The grand entrance in the centre is filled with a rich ornamented door, given, in 1617, by Sir Henry Montague, brother to the bishop of that name; it is charged with the arms of the see,

* Dallaway's *Observations on English Architecture*, p. 41.

† *Essays on Gothic Architecture*, p. 138.

see, impaling those of Montague, and round the shield is the device of the Order of the Garter, *Honi soit qui mal y pense*. In two other shields are the arms of Montague only; under the two upper shields, on a label, is this inscription, *Ecce quam bonum et quam jucundum*, &c. Above the shields is a profile helmet, with the crest of a griffin's head, behind is hung a flowing mantle, and at the bottom of the door are two ornamented bosses. This design strongly marks the decorative taste of the above date. The architrave round the entrance is composed of a number of mouldings, and a sub-architrave diverges from it, and forms a square head over the arch; the spandrels of the arch are filled with labels, enclosing wounded hearts, crowns of thorns, and wounded hands and feet, figurative of the five wounds of our Saviour. On each side these are rich canopied niches, inclosing the statues of St. Peter and St. Paul, the apostolick patrons of the church; they stand on brackets; on that under St. Peter is the blended white and red rose and a crown; and on the corresponding bracket, under St. Paul, is the portcullis, with a crown likewise; the attributes of the two saints are partly destroyed. A very small cornice runs over the head of the arch, supporting an elegant open battlement, which is divided in the centre by a niche, once filled, it may be supposed, with a statue of Henry the Seventh, as his arms and supporters remain perfect at the bottom of it.

The lower parts of the first division over the impost to the turrets, which are of square forms, have simple narrow openings, to light the stair-cases within them. On the upper begins the representation of the bishop's vision; here the ladders take their rise from a kind of undulating line, expressive of the surface of the ground, and here the angels begin their ascension, though much damaged. On each side of the ladders are remains of figures, which have some distant resemblance to shepherds; over them are labels, the inscriptions on which are not legible: other openings for light appear under the rounds of the ladders. The second divisions take octangular forms, and on their fronts is seen the continuation of the ladders and the angels. On the
tops

tops of the ladders are the bustos of two saints, each holding a book. On each side of the front cant of the turrets are three tiers of statues, standing on pedestals, and finishing with pinnacled canopies; they represent the twelve apostles, among which St. John and St. Andrew are conspicuous. The third divisions are filled with compartments, as are the battlements to them, and finish with open spires.

The west window is of extreme richness; it consists of two sub-arches, and a large division between them, each sub-arch having three divisions, which are likewise seen in the heads of the sub-arches; the spandrels between the heads and the large division in the centre have each three divisions; the heights from the bottom of the window to the springing of the arch have also three divisions; in the heads of the sub-arch three divisions, and the large division in the centre has also three divisions. The curious observer must at leisure follow, in the more minute parts, this mystic architectural design. In the centre of the tracery, near the head of the window, is an angel issuing from a cloud, bearing a shield, once charged, it may be presumed, with the arms of the see; an architrave forms the whole line of the window, and its arched head is bounded by a sub-architrave, beginning with the springing of the arch. The spandrels of this arch are filled with an angelic choir, who, in attitudes of adoration, are chanting forth the praises of the Holy Trinity, which was once more conspicuous in the fine niche in the centre of the battlements; there now only remains of it the statue of the Father, whose feet rest on a bracket; below which bracket are two shields, charged with the arms of the see, surmounted by the supporters to the arms of Henry the Seventh, which supporters held the united white and red roses, over which is a crown.

Among the angels appear two shields of arms, now so nearly effaced as not to be distinguishable to the naked eye from below; but a telescope shews them to be charged with two bendlets, dexter-embattled and counter-embattled, and surmounted
by

by a cardinal's hat. This bearing is probably that of Cardinal Adrian di Castello, of whom Brown Willis* says, "Adrian di Castello, Bishop of Hereford, in 1592, and two years after translated to Bath and Wells, bestowed much money in vaulting the choir of Bath, as may be seen by his arms under a cardinal's hat on the roof on each side the choir." The coat, as above described, but without the hat, and with three bendlets instead of two, is now visible in the centre of the second division of the vault of the choir. The upper part of the shields in the west front is so decayed as to render it possible that a third bendlet formerly existed in them, and that the bearing is the same as that in the choir: if so, it proves that this front was only completed in the reign of Adrian di Castello. The cornice above the spandrels is pedimental, as are the lines of the battlements. The battlements are wrought with open tracery of the same elegant work as those below.

We will now particularise the buttresses on each side of the aisle windows. They are ornamented with rolls containing inscriptions not legible, but are said to contain the following allegorical allusion to the founder's name, taken out of the book of Judges, chap. ix. verse 8:

'Jerunt ligna ut ungerent se regem,

'Dixeruntque Olivæ impera nobis.'

'Trees, going to choose their king,

'Said—be to us the Olive king.'

Over the rolls are small arched heads, and on their points are the supporters of the arms of Henry the Seventh, bearing on their head the regal crown, from the rays of which spring olive trees, in allusion to the name of the bishop and his vision; over them are bishops' mitres. Here the small arched heads occur again. Still higher are small shields which are despoiled of their arms. Here the small arched head is introduced a third time; and as at this part of the buttress the square of it is seen complete,

* History of Cathedrals, Vol. I. p. 519.

complete, this arched head is repeated on each square, finishing with open spires corresponding with those of the turrets. The small entrances to the side-aisles are in unison, as well as the enrichments of the five wounds of our Saviour on the spandrel, with their centre entrance. The windows have a resemblance to the great one, and on the mullions of each is a statue; that on the left is designed for our Saviour, who is pointing to the wound in his side with his one hand, and with the other holding some deeds with seals appendant; probably signifying, that through his merits the bounty of the righteous in gifts of lands was applied towards rebuilding of the church.* The statue on the right hand is that of the king, holding a bag of money, as appropriating it to the same holy purpose. These statues stand on pedestals, on the front of which are shields, whereon are just discernible the arms of the see, &c. over their heads are canopies finishing with shields; on that over our Saviour is a griffin. On each side of the arch of the windows are placed small brackets for statues, and over the points of the head of the windows are inscriptions very perfect; over the left is *Domus Mea*, over the right *Domus Orationis*. The title of the whole design of the work on this front, as describing the vision, *De sursum est*, is now nowhere to be perceived. The cornices above these windows take, like that over the centre part of the building, a pedimental direction, and unite with those on the turrets, as do likewise the open battlements in these parts, which, though of more simple workmanship than those in the centre part, are still replete with beauty.

Thus

* This seems to be an unnecessary refinement, and attributes to the architect an idea that probably never entered into his head. The two figures are only sculptural representations of the great benefactors to Bath and its monastery, Offa and Edgar. That on the right hand is Offa, in the succinct garb of the soldier, and with a bag of money in his hand, who having taken the city of Bath, restored the monastery founded by Osric, and enriched it with new donations. The other represents Edgar, with the charter in his hand which he conferred on his favourite city of Bath.

Thus far the Society of Antiquaries: Mr. Warner adds: the eye, on entering the church, is immediately directed to the roof, singular in its design, and beautiful in its execution. This consists of two parts, the nave and the choir. Of these, the former is evidently of later construction than the latter, and was probably built by Bishop Montague, in the beginning of the seventeenth century. It is separated from the side aisles by twelve clustered pillars supporting elliptic arches; is of a great opening, and very flat, the span being thirty feet ten inches, and the elevation only three. The singularity of this piece of masonry, which sets modern art at defiance, consists in this circumstance—that the ribs, which compose the tracery of the cieling, are the only solid work; the intermediate spaces having been originally cut through and left open, and filled up slightly in after times with common lath and plaster.*

The windows of this church are fifty-two in number, and are supposed to have given rise to the appellation by which it has sometimes been distinguished, of the Lantern of England. Here are a great variety of monuments, both ancient and modern, and a handsome altar-piece, representing The Wise Man's Offering, given by General Wade. Here is also a fine specimen of monumental architecture in the little chapel, or oratory of Prior Bird, who died in 1525. "This oratory consists of two arched divisions, impost, entablature, and octangular buttresses, all elaborately ornamented with fanciful traceries, and other decorations. At the left, or south-west angle of the chapel are two ranges of beautiful niches, springing from the impost, and terminating with pinnacles and spires, evidently intended for figures."† This chapel has suffered much from having its tracery despoiled, and part of it cut away to make room for a wooden seat, called the Bishop's Throne. One of the most beautiful and conspicuous monuments that ornament the transepts and nave is that of Bishop Montague, at the north centre
end

* History of Bath, p. 249.

† Warner, 249-250.

end of the nave. It is an altar-tomb, over which the effigy of the prelate in his robes lies prostrate on its back. The head and feet are decorated by Corinthian pillars, supporting an entablature, and crowned with shields exhibiting the armorial bearings of that munificent prelate. Opposite to this is a pillar, bearing a very neat monument, having, on a pyramid of Sienna marble, a medallion, with a half-length figure of the witty and celebrated Quin. On a tablet below is the following inscription :

That tongue which set the table on a roar,
 And charm'd the public ear, is heard no more ;
 Clos'd are those eyes, the harbingers of wit,
 Which spake, before the tongue, what Shakespeare writ ;
 Cold is that hand, which living was stretch'd forth,
 At friendship's call to succour modest worth.
 Here lies James Quin :—Deign, reader, to be taught,
 Whate'er thy strength of body, force of thought,
 In nature's happiest mould however cast,
 ' To this complexion thou must come at last.'

D. GARRICK.

Ob. MDCCLXVI. Etatis LXXIII.

Near this last monument lies buried the renowned Beau Nash, of whom further mention will be made hereafter. The inscription, which is as follows, was from the pen of Dr. Harrington :

Adeste, ó cives, adeste lugentes! Hic silent leges RICARDI NASH, Armig. Nihil amplius imperantis; qui diu et utilissime assumptus Bathoniæ Elegantiæ Arbiter. Eheu morti (ultimo designatori) haud indecori succubuit Ann. Dom. 1761. Æt. suæ 87. Beatus ille, qui sibi imperiosus!

If social virtues make remembrance dear,
 Or manners pure on decent rule depend ;
 To his remains consign one grateful tear,
 Of youth the guardian, and of all the friend.

Now

Now sleeps dominion ; here no bounty flows ;
 Nor more avails the festive scene to grace ;
 Beneath that hand which no discernment shews,
 Untaught to honour, or distinguish place.

H. H.

In this church there are several other monuments, with inscriptions worthy of note ; particularly a large one of veined marble, having a pediment, supported by Corinthian columns, to the memory of Col. Ambrose Norton, who died in the year 1723 : an inscription, on a black marble enchased in white, to the memory of Walter Ernell, Esq. who died 1618 : another inscription, written by Dryden, for Mary, the third daughter of Richard Frampton, of Moreton, in Derbyshire, Esq. a beautiful marble monument, with the following inscription :

“ Near this monument are deposited the remains of Lady Miller, wife to Sir John Miller, Bart, of Bath-Easton Villa ; she departed this life at the Hot-Wells of Bristol, the 24th of June, 1781, in the 41st year of her age.

“ Devoted stone ! amidst the wrecks of time,
 Uninjured bear thy MILLER's spotless name :
 The virtues of her youth and ripen'd prime,
 The tender thought, th' enduring record claim.

“ When clos'd the num'rous eyes that round this bier
 Have wept the loss of wide extended worth,
 O, gentle stranger, may one gen'rous tear
 Drop, as thou bendest o'er this hallow'd earth !

“ Are truth and genius, love and pity thine,
 With lib'ral charity, and faith sincere ?
 Then rest thy wand'ring step beneath this shrine,
 And greet a kindred spirit hov'ring near.”

Arms, *Argent*, a fesse *gules* between three wolves' heads erased *azure* ; Miller : on an escutcheon of pretence *gules* a fesse *ermine* between three water spaniels *argent* ; Riggs.

In the south aisle of the choir is a free-stone monument, a kind of sarcophagus, under a canopy, supported by six pillars of the Ionic order. This sarcophagus contains two bodies, a male and a female. They are lodged in slight oak coffins, one upon another. When Mr. Gough saw them, in 1786, the skin of the man was completely dried on the breast and belly, and the hair of his head, chin, and chest, perfectly preserved; that on his head thin and red. The nails on the great toe and third toe of the left foot were perfect and long, and the leader of the leg complete. The toes of the left foot were less perfect.* The woman was not discovered till within the last thirty-one or thirty-two years; and when Mr. Gough saw her, she was completely enveloped in a wrapper of linen, incrustated with wax, or some preparation which, when first opened, was white, but afterwards turned to a yellow colour. The left hand, lying on the belly, was withered and dried like the man's. The male corpse measures five feet ten inches, and the female's five feet four inches. There is no monumental inscription; but Mr. Warner † says, they are the embalmed relics of Thomas Lycheffeld, who was lutanist to Queen Elizabeth, and of Margaret, his wife. On the top are three arms: two bends coupéd.

On the south side of this aisle there is a vestry, containing a small library, begun by Bishop Lake, and since increased by voluntary contributions. There are no books of much consequence, except an imperfect copy of Walton's Polyglot Bible.

There is also a monument of black and white marble, with the effigies of a knight mourning over his lady, at whose feet is a daughter sitting in a chair, and at the head a son in the same posture. This monument was erected "to the deare memory of the right vertuous and worthy lady, Jane Lady Waller, sole daughter and heir to Sir Richard Reynell, wife to Sir William Waller,

* Sepulchral Monuments, Introduction, lxxxvii.

† Hist. Bath, 256.

Waller, Knight." There is also a poetical inscription, indicative of the many virtues and graces of "a matchless paire," of whom the Lady Waller was the sole issue. The nose of the knight has been destroyed, as it is said, by the sword of King James the Second, who, passing through this church, was so much offended at Waller's effigy, that he instantly revenged himself on it, by hacking off its nose.*

On the left hand of the choir is a monument, by Nollekins, erected to the memory of Colonel Alexander Champion. The figure, representing Fame leaning on a likeness of the Colonel, which is done in alto relievo, is reckoned particularly fine, and the drapery exquisite. On the front of the monument is an inscription, enumerating, as is usual on these occasions, the domestic virtues, the professional abilities, the zeal and the courage, the success and the humanity, and all the other *et cætera* of grace and goodness which the warm fancy, the ardent affection, and the pious care, of a sorrowing widow would naturally dictate. Here are also monuments, with inscriptions to the memory of Lady Caldwell, Dr. Camplin, Mrs. Frazer, widow of Mr. W. Frazer, many years under secretary of state; Henrietta Charlotte Byron, wife of the late Capt. George Anson Byron; Sir William Draper, the inscription, in Latin; by Mr. Anstey, author of the celebrated New Bath Guide; Joseph Ewart, Esq. his Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court of Prussia, from the year 1787 to 1792. But, observes Mr. Warner, perhaps the monument which, of all others in this noble fabric, is most remarkable for happiness of design, is that against a pillar in the south aisle, erected to the memory of Colonel Walch, with this inscription:

"Near this place lies the body of Thomas Walch, Esq. late Lieutenant-Colonel in his Majesty's service. He departed this life, 12th September, 1788, aged 66 years."

B b 2

The

* Warner, 257.

The parish of ST. JAMES comprehends that part of the city which lies between the limits of the parish of St. Peter and St. Paul, on the north, and the river Avon on the south and south-west. Its church stands a little eastward from the site of the old South Gate. The original building, a curious specimen of ancient architecture, was partly taken down in 1716, when an additional aisle and tower were erected; and in 1768 and 1769 the body of the church was rebuilt, after a plan furnished by Mr. Palmer, architect, of Bath, the expences being defrayed partly by voluntary subscription, but principally by monies advanced on the security of church rates and rents. This edifice is constructed of free-stone, in the style usually denominated *modern Gothic*. The ground plan is a parallelogram of sixty-one feet long by fifty-eight wide, within the walls; the roof is supported by four Ionic columns; the cieling is divided into three compartments; the middle one, containing an elegant lantern to admit light to the body of the church, is finished with an entablature and coving; the two sides with an architrave of the Ionic order. A recess at the eastern end, lined by columns and pilasters, with a Doric entablature, contains the communion table. The pews are well arranged, and the pulpit and reading-desk are judiciously disposed. There is an organ erected by Mr. Seed, of Bristol, in 1782, and subsequently improved by Mr. Holland, which is considered the finest in the city, with the exception of that in the abbey church. The square tower at the western end, which, as we have just observed, formed part of the additions prior to the rebuilding of the church, contains a musical set of eight bells.

The parish of ST. MICHAEL, is called, in old records, *St. Michael extra muros*, (without the walls,) because it occupies a short space between the northern limits of the old city, and the foot of Lansdown Hill. The old church, as it stood in the year 1663, was a small venerable structure, with one aisle, a chancel in the east, and a lofty square tower at the west end. On the south side of the nave it had two chantries or chapels,

of a very ancient and curious style of building. Having become ruinous, it was taken down in the year 1734, when a new one was begun to be erected. The inhabitants, in the outset of this undertaking, had applied to Mr. Wood, the architect, who laid before the vestry meeting an elegant plan for the intended edifice. Some disagreement arising, his proposals were rejected, and an inferior artist, named John Harvey, was engaged for the work. On its completion, Wood published, in his "Essay towards a Description of Bath," the following strictures, which, though severe, are allowed to be just. "The work," he observes, "was carried on by the direction of the above-mentioned John Harvey, and in a taste so peculiar to himself, that the very journeymen workmen, to mortify him, declared, that a horse, accustomed to the sight of good buildings, was so frightened at the odd appearance of the church, that he would not go by till he was hood-winked. The inside of the body of this whimsical fabric is nearly sixty-three feet in length, almost thirty-seven in breadth, and has only a timber floor to separate the living and the dead. The roof too, is a piece of work of a very uncommon kind; for the building is spanned at twice, to throw the weight of the whole covering towards the centre of its beams, and to make a lodgement for dirt and snow directly over the very middle of the church. Thus one absurdity, or rather iniquity, accompanies another; for a timber floor, and an M roof for the body of the church, are artful contrivances for the benefit of trade (as the knavish sort of workmen term it), and time will demonstrate it in this structure."* The situation of the edifice is equally unfortunate with its plan, being at the junction of two streets, through which carriages are frequently passing. The expence of the building, which was finished in 1742, was defrayed partly by voluntary subscription, to which General Wade added a liberal donation, and partly by a parish rate.

* Wood's Essay towards a Description of Bath, p. 308.

The parish of WALCOT includes all those parts of the city which lie on the north, north-east, and north-west sides of the parish of St. Michael, and extends to the confines of Weston on the west, including the Circus, the Crescent, and all the other buildings on the acclivities of Lansdown and Beacon Hills. The greater part of it was included within the liberties of the city in 1590, through the artifice of William Sherston, the mayor; but its manorial, and many other properties, remain distinct from it.* Its church, dedicated to St. Swithin, was rebuilt in 1780, after the design of St. James's church; but by a subsequent enlargement and alteration, the elegant proportions, for which its model is remarkable, could not be preserved. It stands at the point whence the fosse road and the vicinal way leading to Weston diverge. The population of this parish increased so rapidly, as to require other places of public worship; hence four chapels of ease, and one church, have been at different periods erected.

The first of these, in point of date, is QUEEN SQUARE CHAPEL, which stands at the south-west corner of Queen Square. It is considered as a monument of the taste of its architect, Mr. Wood, who is said to have formed its plan from ideas suggested by that of an ancient temple at Athens. He built it in 1735, from the amount of a subscription raised among several gentlemen, at his suggestion. Its exterior is of the Doric, and its interior of the Ionic order.

MARGARET CHAPEL, a spacious, but inelegant building, was erected in 1773, and received its name from Mrs. Margaret Garrard, at that time lady of the manor, and patroness of the living of Walcot.

ALL SAINTS CHAPEL, situated immediately under Lansdown Hill, a most elegant structure, in the florid Gothic style, from a plan of Mr. Palmer, architect, was finished in 1794. Its dimensions are sixty-four feet in length, and forty-six in width, within the walls, exclusive of four recesses for stoves. The gallery

* Collinson, Vol. I, p. 73. Warner, p. 272.

tery is carried entirely round the chapel, forming an oval, supported by eight slender clustered pillars, which rising to the roof spread into ribs, that serve as a support to it. The central part of the ceiling rising six feet higher than that over the gallery, assumes also an oval form, and is enriched with appropriate ornaments in stucco. Above the gallery are twelve large windows, decorated with heads of the twelve apostles, in painted glass. The window over the altar, likewise, bears a representation of the Lord's Sapper.

KENSINGTON CHAPEL, situated in a new range of buildings on the eastern side of the London road, is the work of the same architect. It was built by subscription, and opened in January, 1795.

CHRIST'S CHURCH was built for the express purpose of providing a place of worship for the poor, on a piece of land in Montpelier Row, presented by Lord Rivers to the trustees appointed to manage the fund subscribed for its establishment. In conformity to the original plan, the whole area was appropriated to the use of persons who could not afford to pay for seats, and the galleries alone were reserved for letting. From the rent which they produce, the expences of the institution are defrayed.

The common burial place of the parish of Walcot is a little to the eastward of the parish church. It is a square piece of ground, containing nearly two acres, on a gentle slope towards the river. From various discoveries made in digging graves, it appears to have been used as a cemetery in the time of the Romans. Many urns and vases, containing ashes, have occasionally been found, and in some instances coins; as also stone coffins, of different constructions and dimensions. Similar sepulchral remains have likewise been from time to time found near the course of the Roman road, which is very near this ground; a circumstance which corroborates the above supposition, as it is known that the Romans used to bury their dead and erect monuments

near the public ways, in order that travellers might thence derive useful lessons on the transient nature of human existence.

THE OCTAGON is an elegant chapel, situate in Milsom Street. It was built in 1767, under the direction of Mr. Lightholder, with recesses, fire-places, and other conveniences. The altarpiece represents the Pool of Bethesda, and was painted by Mr. Hoare, of Bath.

LAURA CHAPEL was erected, in Henrietta Street, Laura Place, in the year 1796. It was built on a tontine scheme, and its returns, from the very high rate at which the pews are let, are said to be very considerable.

The little chapel of ST. MARY MAGDALENE stands near the top of Holloway, in the parish of Widcombe and Lyncombe. It was founded some time in the twelfth century; but by whom it is not known. It was rebuilt in the fifteenth century, by John Cantlow, Prior of Bath, which circumstance is commemorated in the following lines, cut on the east side of the porch:

Thys. chapell. floryschyd. wt. formosyte. spectabyll.

In. the. honowre. of. M. Magdalen. prior Cantlow. hath edyfyde.

Desyryng. yow. to. pray. for. him. wt. yowre. pryers. delectabyll.

That. sche. will. inhabit. him. in. hevyn. ther. evyr. to. abyde.

This chapel has long been overgrown with ivy, and being built in a neat Gothic style, has a romantic effect, when viewed from the road. Adjoining it there is a small lunatic hospital, which is partly supported by the same endowment. It was rebuilt in 1761.

In addition to the places of worship in the Church Establishment, there are several others for the use of various classes of Dissenters; particularly, the Unitarian Chapel, in Trim Street; the Baptist Chapel, in Garrard Street; the Quaker's Meeting-House, on St. James's Parade; the Chapel of the Unitas Fratrum, or Moravians, in Monmouth Street; a Chapel belonging to the Wesleyan Methodists, in New King Street; an Independent Calvinist

Calvinist Chapel, in Argyle Street; and a sort of semi-episcopal Chapel, in the connection of which the late Countess of Huntingdon was the head, which, though served by the Rev. T. Haweis, L.L.B. M.D. a clergyman of the established church, is licenced under what is called the Toleration Act, as a Dissenting Meeting-House. The learned and worthy minister of this chapel, imitating in some degree the conduct of the celebrated Apostle Paul, "becomes all things to all men;" as he is not only the minister of the Dissenting Chapel in Harlequin Row, Bath; but is moreover rector of Aldwincle, Northamptonshire! However, as these places cannot both of them be denominated *livings*, according to the usual acceptation of the term, the candid will not rashly call the doctor a pluralist. There is also a Roman Catholic Chapel in Orchard Street; a handsome and elegant structure.

By way of introduction to a more detailed account, we gladly avail ourselves of the following cursory view of the architecture of this elegant city:

A visitor to this very populous resort of wealth and elegance is disappointed on a close examination of its architecture. The beautiful inequalities of ground, seen from a distance, might lead him to expect specimens peculiarly adapted to please the eye, delight the fancy, and satisfy the judgment of the architectural virtuoso. The first place of public access is the Pump-Room, and the eye is naturally employed in surveying the façade in which the principal door is placed.* The pediment appears to be disproportionably small, and the columns and architrave bear no analogy to the ample space contained in the breadth and height of the building, and to its large and lofty windows. The inside is much superior to the external appearance, as the room is very plain, and well-constructed. The new street, called Pulteney Street, is long and broad; but being chiefly divided into distinct houses, is very far from impressive, and being on a level, the eye feels no relief from a flat uniformity. Upon a near inspection of the individual houses, their structure betrays
excessive

excessive tameness of design, and a tenuity which borders on meanness. The Crescent is grandly situated, and so beautifully formed, that the spectator's judgment is for a while suspended, till on a nearer view, he cannot help regretting that the upper parts of the buildings lose all the effect which the Ionic pillars would have communicated, by the defective projection and unornamented wall of the basement story. The houses which terminate each end exhibit striking fronts. When this has been called the finest modern Ionic skreen in Europe, the praise has been exaggerated. The Circus forms a dark and heavy area, though the individual structures are highly ornamented. Smollet's criticism is nevertheless severe, when he calls it "an antique amphitheatre turned inside out."*

Bath, in short, betrays that fallacy to the eye which all buildings of a theatric nature are known to do; the visionary pleasure soon vanishes, when a close inspection shews the littleness of the component parts, the slimness of the structures, and the imperfect durability of the materials. The New Crescent owes the degree of beauty it possesses to its lofty situation alone. Milsom Street, from its being built on an ascent, is very striking, and the junction in the middle, of several tenements under one design, is not without an appearance of grandeur. Yet the ornaments are merely such as a builder, uninstructed in the Palladian school, might capriciously have invented. The long façade to the upper rooms is handsome; but the principal approach is heavy, and deformed by the jutting parts of the building, which make a dark, narrow, and deep area. The North Parade exhibits a promising front to the stranger who wishes for commodious lodgings; the South Parade is inferior. Neatness of appearance, in most instances, and in some of splendor, cannot, however, exempt the architecture of Bath from the general characteristic of flimsiness, and apparent want of durability. The elevations of the Baths are pretty, and the colonnades in the
street

* In the novel of Humphry Clinker.

street connecting the Baths, and called Bath Street, give that part of the city a light and airy appearance.*

Among the PUBLIC BUILDINGS, the next deserving mention, after the ecclesiastical structures, are those belonging to the medicinal springs. The original *Pump-Room* was begun in 1704, finished two years afterwards, and opened for the reception of company under the auspices of Mr. Nash, who had just then entered on his kingly office at Bath. The object of its erection was to enable the drinkers to take exercise without exposing themselves to the weather, and thereby incur the danger of catching cold. The room was enlarged in 1751; a portico, stretching from it in a northerly direction, was added in 1786; and a superb western frontispiece in 1791. Five years afterwards, Mr. Baldwin, the architect, who executed these improvements, erected a *new pump room* on the site of the old one, on a more extensive and magnificent scale. Its length, including two coved recesses at the ends, is eighty-five feet, its breadth forty-five feet, and its height thirty-four feet, within the walls. Round the interior are set three-quarter columns of the Corinthian order, crowned with entablature, and surmounted by a coving of five feet. The room is lighted by a double range of windows, and has a music-gallery at the western end. The eastern recess contains a marble statue of Nash, by Hoare, and an excellent clock, by Tompion. In the centre of the south side is a marble vase, from which the waters issue, and are handed warm to the company by the pumper, who is stationed in a bar. During the full season, a company of musicians perform in the gallery every morning, to a numerous concourse of ladies and gentlemen; and the room at such times presents a gay and animated scene. As this is a public promenade, all persons decently dressed may avail themselves of it, without regard to the etiquette of fashion. Those, however, who drink the waters, are expected to pay about a guinea per month, besides a gratuity to the pumper. The exterior

* Dallaway's Observations, p. 223---226, from communications to the author by his friend, the translator of Aldrich's "*Elementa Architecturæ Civilis*."

exterior is finished in a style of architecture correspondent with that of the interior. On the architrave, under the tympanum, is the following inscription, from Pindar, suggested by Doctor Johnson :

“APIΣTON MEN ΥΔΩΡ;”

literally signifying, “Verily water is best;” by some interpreted, “Bath water is better than Bath wine.”*

The following inscription, from the pen of Mr. Anstey, the author of that inimitable piece of humour, “The New Bath Guide,” is placed behind the vase in the pump-room, on a pannel, in letters of gold :

“ THE HOSPITAL

IN THIS CITY,

Open to the Sick Poor of every Part of the World,

To whose Cases these Waters are applicable,

(The Poor of Bath only excepted)

Was first established and is still supported by the Charitable
Contributions of the Liberal and Humane.

“ Oh! pause awhile, whoe’er thou art,
That drink’st this healing Stream;
If e’er Compassion o’er thy Heart
Diffus’d its heav’nly Beam;

Think on the Wretch whose distant Lot
This friendly Aid denies :
Think, how in some poor lonely Cot
He unregarded lies!

Hither the helpless Stranger bring,
Relieve his heartfelt Woe,
And let thy Bounty, like this Spring,
In genial Currents flow :

So may thy years from Grief and Pain,
And pining Want, be free;
And thou from Heaven that Mercy gain,
The Poor receive from thee.”

Another

* Bath wine, however, is certainly both cheaper and better than London wine.

Another inscription, from the pen of Dr. Harrington, is hung up in the same room.

"ALWHYLE ye drinke, 'midst Age and Ache ybent,
Ah creepe not comfortless besyde our Streame,
(Sweete Nurse of Hope ;) Afflyction's downwarde sente,
Wythe styll small Voyce, to rouse from thyrftless dream,
Each Wyng to prune, that shyftythe everie Sprae
In wytlasse Flyghte, and chyrpythe Lyfe awaye.

Alwhyle ye lave—suche Solace may be founde :

"When kynde the Hand, why 'neath its healyng faynte?
"Payne shall recure the Hearte's corruptede Wounde ;
"Farre gone is that which feelethe not its Playnte.
"By kyndrede Angel smote, BETHESDA gave
"Newe Vyrtnes forthe, and felt her troubledde wave."

Thus drynke, thus lave—nor ever more lamente,
Our Sprynges but flowe pale Anguise to befriende ;
How fayre the Meede that followethe Contente !
How bleste to lyve, and fynde such Anguise mende.
How bleste to dye—when sufferynge Faithe makes sure,
At Lyfe's high Founte, an everlasty ne Cure !

EDGAR."

The *public Baths* are four in number: the King's Bath, and Queen's Bath, which are connected with each other; the Hot Bath, and the Cross Bath. The *private* baths are those belonging to the corporation, in Stall Street, adjoining the King's Bath, built in 1788, with dry pumps, sudatories, and every other accommodation; and the neat and convenient baths, called the Duke of Kingston's, or the Abbey Baths, belonging to Earl Manvers. The latter are supplied from the same source as the great pump-room, and are filled in less than four minutes. They are at present in the occupation of Dr. Wilkinson, late of Soho Square, London.

The *King's Bath* is situate at the southern side of the pump-room. It is sixty-five feet ten inches in length, and forty feet ten inches in breadth; and when filled to its usual height contains upwards of three hundred and forty-six tons of water. In the central part, where the spring boils up, is a brass hand-rail,
of

of an octangular form, and round the sides runs a Doric colonnade, to shelter the bathers from the inclemency of the weather. The bath fills in nine hours, and in its hottest part raises the thermometer to 116 degrees, in its coolest, to 100. Two commodious rooms open into this bath, fitted up with pumps, and pipes to direct the hot water to any particular part of the body. There are also fire-places, and other conveniences for the use of the bathers.

The *Queen's Bath* is a square of twenty-five feet, behind the King's Bath, and is furnished with similar conveniences. The temperature is somewhat lower. The *Cross Bath* is situated at the extremity of Bath Street, to which it forms a handsome termination. It is of a triangular form, and has a small neat pump-room attached to it, from a plan by Mr. Baldwin. The appellation is derived from a cross which the Earl of Melfort, secretary to King James the Second, erected in its centre, in commemoration of the benefit which the queen derived from bathing in it. She had heard of the efficacy of these waters in cases of barrenness, and she tried them with success. The prince whom she bore to the king was the unfortunate Pretender; and hence it is curious to reflect, that the two rebellions which afflicted the country in the earlier part of the last century, had their source in the health-giving waters of Bath. The cross is now removed.

The *Hot Bath* stands about forty yards south-west of the Cross Bath, and is distinguished by the superior heat of its waters, their temperature being 117 degrees of Fahrenheit. The building, which was erected under the judicious directions of Mr. Wood, includes a public bath, and several private ones; a vapour bath, dry pumps, dressing-rooms; and is provided with machines for assisting the infirm in bathing. A new, neat, and convenient pump-room has been erected near this bath, which, on account of there being no steps to ascend, is peculiarly adapted to invalids. Some judicious regulations, established by the corporation, and rigidly adhered to, prevent the attendants from practising any impositions on strangers.

The

The Bath waters are said to have three distinct sources, the King's Bath, the Hot Bath, and the Cross Bath, which arise within a small distance of each other. Their contents, according to analyses made by the best chemists and physicians, are thus stated :

A small quantity of carbonic acid gas, and also of azotic gas ;

Some sulphate of soda, and muriate of soda ;

Selenite ;

Carbonate of lime ;

Siliceous earth ;

A very small portion of oxyd of iron.

It has been shewn, however, from a series of experiments made by Dr. Gibbes, that the waters contain a much greater portion of iron than had been generally supposed. He observes, that "iron is deposited in three different states by the Bath waters: 1. It tinges the glasses which are made use of for drinking the waters at the pumps, of a yellow golden colour, which can be scraped off. This portion is what I imagine was united with carbonic acid, and is deposited on the glasses, on the sides and bottom of the baths, in the state of ochre. 2. It forms pyritical incrustations about the reservoirs and channels of the baths: in these the iron is in its metallic state, united with sulphur. 3. It is deposited in the sand of the bath in black particles, which are attracted by the magnet. Some of these particles appeared in a crystalline form." These waters, taken internally, operate as a stimulant; they increase the action of the blood-vessels, and promote the various secretions, particularly those of urine and perspiration. The diseases in which their external and internal uses render most service, are affections of the liver and stomach, induced by long residence in warm climates, by luxurious eating, and by intemperate drinking; jaundice, hypochondriasis, and chlorosis.

They are especially efficacious in that state of gout termed atonic, which is so frequently an ultimate condition of the regular

regular and inflammatory gout.* In this disease the Bath waters have a peculiar tendency to excite paroxysms, and to remove the debility consequent upon them. The external application of the water is highly beneficial in palsy, chronic rheumatism, and cutaneous diseases; and no less so in the local affections of scrofula and rheumatism, affecting the principal joints, as those of the knee, hip, and elbow, as well as in lameness, contractions, and loss of power in different organs. The water, in all cases, should be drunk hot from the pump, or else in as warm a state as it can be conveyed to the patient's lodgings. Its effect on the stomach and nerves are sometimes remarkably speedy; persons who have lost their appetites and spirits by high living, have, by using them a few days, recovered their powers of digestion and cheerfulness of mind. The quantity taken is seldom more than a pint and a half in the course of the day, and is divided into three portions, two before breakfast, allowing half an hour between them, and a third at noon. The condition of the patient is, however, to be strictly attended to; and the quantity must be regulated at the discretion of the physician. The cautions of the elegant historian of Bath on the use of them, are highly important and judicious. "We cannot," he observes, "too strongly inculcate that they are stimulants of the most active kind, and consequently capable of producing all the mischievous effects of *stimuli* when unsuitably or excessively applied. Whenever there exists in the system either extraordinary fulness, a general inflammatory state, or any local inflammation; if there be the smallest indication of any disorder of the head or chest, consisting either of too great determination of blood, or increased action of the blood-vessels, in these, and all analogous conditions, the internal use of the Bath waters is peculiarly deleterious." The same indications respecting the disagreement of the Bath waters internally, apply to their external use, and of course an equal degree of caution is to be used. The continuance

* Warner's Hist. p. 388.

continuance in the Bath may be, for any time, from ten minutes to half an hour, and is to be determined by avoiding the production of any degree of faintness or debility. The best time for bathing is in the morning, fasting; but persons of delicate constitutions are frequently advised, by their medical guides, to use the bath some hours after dinner. Dry pumping is another mode of applying the water, and is chiefly practised in topical diseases. The water, supplied to a pump from the spring, is directed solely to the part affected, and by its degree of heat and stimulus often produces great relief. From fifty to two or three hundred strokes of the pump (as they are termed), either in the general bath, or in the open air, are enough at a time. They may be repeated daily, or every other day. It must be observed, that much of the efficacy of the Bath waters, in any of the modes of using them, depends on the perseverance of the patient.

The disease has sometimes yielded to a continued application of the remedy, when a short trial has been unproductive of benefit; and it has often been found that a recurrence to the waters, after some intermission, has been attended with the wished for success.

Of the CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS of Bath, the *General Hospital* claims the pre-eminence; being, as its name implies, established for the reception of all the sick poor in the united kingdom, whose complaints are of a nature which requires relief from the healing springs of the place. An exception to this general admission is made, respecting the resident poor of Bath, under the consideration that they have the advantage of taking the waters at their own houses, at a very moderate charge. This munificent institution owed its origin to the celebrated Beau Nash, who, in 1715, suggested the plan to a number of gentlemen, and induced them to subscribe a large sum for carrying it into execution. Owing to some difference of opinion among them, no active steps were taken until 1738, when the hospital was built by Mr. Wood, the architect, on the site of the old theatre, at the top of Parsonage Lane, fronting the Borough-Walls. The

first stone was laid by the Right Hon. William Pulteney, afterwards Earl of Bath. The building is of the Ionic order, and consists of a ground-floor, principal and chamber-stories, well adapted to the uses for which they were designed. By an act of parliament, obtained in the following year, the concerns of the institution were vested in a body corporate of ninety persons, under the denomination of "President and Governors of the General Hospital, or Infirmary of Bath." Regulations were therein made for the impartial admission of patients to the hospital, and a specific sum was appointed to be paid them on their recovery, for defraying the expences of their return to their respective parishes. The conditions for admission are as follow :

I. The case of the patient must be described by some physician or person of skill in the neighbourhood of the place where the patient has resided for some time ; and this description must be sent in a letter (franked or post-paid) directed to the Registrar of the General Hospital.

The age and name of the patient ought to be mentioned in the description of the case, and the persons who describe it are desired to be particular in the enumeration of the symptoms ; so that neither improper cases may be admitted, nor proper ones rejected, by the physicians and surgeons, who always examine and sign the cases as proper or improper, previously to their being laid before the weekly committee.

If the patient have any fever upon him, as long as the fever continues, he will be deemed improper. Patients with coughs, attended with pain in the chest, or spitting of blood, are improper ; as are also those with abscesses, or with any external ulcers, until such ulcers be healed.

From want of attention to the above particulars, and notwithstanding the cautions frequently given, by printing the conditions of admission in the public papers, very imperfect descriptions of cases have been and are still sent ; and many patients have been discharged as improper soon after their admission, to the disappointment of the patients thus sent.

II. After

II. After the patient's case has been thus described and sent, he must remain in his usual place of residence till he has notice of a vacancy, signified by a letter from the registrar, accompanied with a blank certificate.

III. Upon the receipt of such a letter, the patient must set forward for Bath, bringing with him this letter, the parish certificate duly executed, and attested before two justices for the county or city to which the patient belongs, and three pounds caution-money, if from any part of England or Wales; but if the patient come from Scotland or Ireland, then the caution-money, to be deposited before admission, is the sum of five pounds.

IV. Soldiers may, instead of parish certificates, bring a certificate from their commanding officers, signifying to what corps they belong, and that they shall be received into the same corps when discharged from the hospital, in whatever condition they are. And the same is expected from the governors of Chelsea and Greenwich hospitals respecting their pensioners. But it is necessary that their cases be described, and sent previously, and that they bring with them three pounds caution-money.

N. B. The intention of the caution-money is to defray the expences of returning the patients after they are discharged from the hospital; or of their burial, in case they die there. The remainder of the money, after these expences are defrayed, will be returned to the person who deposited it.

All poor persons coming to Bath, under pretence of getting into the hospital, without having their cases thus described and sent previously, and leave given to come, will be treated as vagrants, according to the hospital act of parliament.

If any patient should have the small-pox here, such person must be removed out of the house, and the caution-money defray the expences thereof. Likewise, all persons who shall come into the hospital without decent and necessary apparel, must have such necessaries provided out of the said caution-money.

The funds of the institution arise from annual subscriptions, occasional donations, and collections made twice a year at charity-sermons, preached in the different churches and chapels of Bath.

St. John's Hospital, and the chapel attached to it, stand a little to the westward of the Cross-Bath, and the northward of the Hot Bath. They were built by Mr. Wood, the architect, and beautifier of Bath, in 1728, upon the site of an older hospital, erected in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. This institution accommodates six old infirm men, and as many ancient disabled women, who have each an apartment allowed them, a certain proportion of coals, and 4s. 8d. per week. In the chapel, divine service is performed every day, at eleven in the morning and three in the afternoon. This institution owes its foundation to the munificence of Reginald Fitz-Joceline, Bishop of Bath and Wells in the year 1180, who then built an hospital for sick and aged poor, dedicated it to St. John the Baptist, endowed it with lands and demesnes in Bath and its neighbourhood, and placed it under the jurisdiction of the monastery there. St. John's Hospital made a part of the possessions of Bath Abbey till the dissolution of religious houses by Henry the Eighth, when its value was estimated at 22l. 16s. 10d.; but as it did not come within the meaning of the dissolving act, it was preserved, and vested in the crown. Shortly afterwards it was attached to the parish of St. Michael, and its mastership given to the rector for the time being; who, considering the hospital as a sinecure, omitted to fill it with paupers, and suffered the building to dilapidate; so that early in the reign of Elizabeth scarcely any appearance of the establishment remained, except its name. But at that period it was restored, out of the moneys raised by the brief granted for the completion of the Abbey Church, and the patronage vested in the mayor and chief citizens of the city; subject to the regulations originally imposed upon the establishment by Fitz-Joceline. The corporation, however, disregarding the terms on which it was conferred upon them, and tempted by

by the increased rental of the premises belonging to it, made an order, that the mayor of Bath for the time being should be master of the hospital; thus throwing all the profits of the institution into the pockets of one of their own body, discharging the paupers, neglecting the building, desecrating the chapel, and converting it into an alehouse and a post-office. This scene of dishonesty and depredation continued till the beginning of the last century, when the peculators quarrelling amongst themselves, relative to the hospital lands and fines, John Chapman, who was then master, filed a bill against the corporation: first, to oblige them to make a discovery of the original foundation charter and deeds belonging to the hospital (which they had secreted in their own chest) of the charities attached to it, and of the lands and premises belonging to the same, their value and situation; secondly, to set aside a fraudulent lease which then subsisted of the premises; and, thirdly, to have effectual rules and orders made for the future regulation of the institution. On this bill an hearing was had, and a solemn argument took place, before Sir John Trevor, Knight, then master of the rolls, November 26, 1713; who decreed, amongst other matters, that when any new leases of the premises belonging to the hospital were granted, the *fines* received for the same should be divided in the following manner:—*two-thirds* to the master, out of which he should keep the chapel, clock, and windows, and other parts thereof, in good repair; and the *remaining third part* thereof to the co-brethren, brothers, and sisters, to be paid and distributed to them monthly; that on vacancies the brethren and sisters should be put in by the master, but that they should be *inhabitants of Bath*, who had been settled there *ten years* before; that they should be poor, and *unmarried*; that the master, with the consent of the co-brethren and sisters, might, under their common seal, renew any leases, the fine of which should not exceed one year's value for one life, and the rent, or prices, not be increased without the leave of the Court of Chancery; and, finally, his honour directed, that the chapel should be

immediately rebuilt, at the expence of the corporation. This was accordingly forthwith complied with; Mr. Bushel, the mayor, paying 540l. to Killegrew, the architect, for that purpose; and the institution has ever since been regulated according to the particulars of this decree.

The *Bimberies*, *Black-Alms*, or *Hospital of St. Catherine*, stands in Bimberry Lane, and is said to have been founded on the site of an ancient alms-house, built by two sisters, of the name of Bimberry. It receives its second name from the colour of the garments worn by the paupers belonging to it, by the order of the corporation, as a mark of lamentation for the loss of the royal founder of the institution, Edward the Sixth, who died in the flower of his youth; and has its third appellation from Catherine, the mother of Queen Mary, in whose reign the building was completed. The hospital is a low mean structure, near the south-west angle of the Borough-Walls, containing fourteen tenements, fitted up for as many paupers of either sex, but inhabited only by ten, who are allowed 3s. 6d. per week each, and a black coat once in two years. On the 12th of July, 1552, Edward the Sixth granted to the corporation of Bath upwards of eighty tenements, dwelling-houses, cottages, stables, gardens, &c. situate within the city and its suburbs, for the purposes of founding a grammar-school at Bath, and maintaining ten poor folk within the said town for ever. But, with the *same attention* which they had paid to the will and intention of the founder of St. John's hospital, the corporation, instead of relieving and maintaining the ten paupers, according to the deed of foundation, "from time to time, in manifest violation of their trust, (as the writ of execution expresses it) applied the same to their own or other private uses, in prejudice of the said charities." In the year 1737, however, an application was made to chancery to rectify these abominable abuses; when the court decreed, that in consequence of the notorious mismanagement, neglect, misconversion, misgovernment, and misapplication, by the corporation, of the revenues of the lands granted

granted by Edward, the said corporation should, in three months, pay into the hands of the steward the sum of 500*l.* as a satisfaction for their abuses of the charity; that they should sustain ten poor men for thirty-five years, and then (when the rents of the lands should be increased) they should apply the revenues to the support of such an *additional number* of old men as the income would extend to. That the said ten poor men should annually, on Christmas-Day, receive a new gown of grey cloth, of the value of 20*s.* and a pair of shoes and stockings, and constantly attend divine service every morning and afternoon, at the Abbey Church in Bath, and receive the blessed sacrament at least every month; and that of each of these should receive an allowance of 3*s.* 6*d.* per week.

Bellott's Hospital is situated in Bell-Tree Lane, a narrow passage, connecting the Hot Bath with Stall Street, on land belonging to St. John's Hospital, but granted to the mayor and corporation by Tobias Rustat, Esq. (thence sometimes called Rustat's Charity) lessee to John Rustat, the Master of St. John's, on the 25th March, 1672, to be held free of fine from thence for ever. It is a low building, sixty-seven feet in front, and and forty-six in depth, inclosing an area thirty-five feet long and fifteen broad, and entertains twelve poor men and women, who have each an apartment, the liberty of bathing, and an allowance of 1*s.* 10*d.* per week; the mayor, for the time being, nominating such objects to the charity as its physician shall recommend. It continues open only half the year, from Lady-Day to Michaelmas. That benevolent and munificent character, Thomas Bellott, Esq. the great benefactor of the Abbey Church, founded this hospital in the reign of James I. for the reception of twelve of the poorest strangers who should come to Bath for the use of its waters, under sanction of the act of parliament passed by Elizabeth, in 1593, authorizing paupers, from all parts of the kingdom, to come to Bath for the use of its waters, and commanding justices to grant them licenses for

that purpose. To further the intention of this statute, and two others to the same effect, by James the First, and Charles the First,* and to assist the philanthropic design of Mr. Bellott, in founding this hospital, the Lady Elizabeth Scudamore, who was at Bath for her health, in 1652, gave the annual sum of 8l. to be paid by the corporation to a physician, for his advice to the poor. This donation was notified to the public by a brass plate, fixed in the wall near the common pump; now entirely obliterated.

To afford the poor of Bath the same advantage as strangers, some charitable persons founded another hospital in the year 1747, for the reception of diseased paupers belonging to the several parishes of St. Peter and St. Paul, St. James, St. Michael, Walcot, and Bathwick. It continued to be called the Pauper Charity till 1792, when a great improvement being made in the establishment, it changed its appellation to the Bath City Dispensary and Asylum. Equally open to medical and surgical cases, this excellent institution bears away, perhaps, the palm of utility from all the others within the city.

This charity is supported by annual subscriptions, occasional benefactions, and church collections; and regulated by the following orders:

“Persons receiving parish-pay are inadmissible, and no patient can be admitted without bringing a printed recommendatory ticket from a subscriber. Annual subscribers, on payment of their subscription, receive six printed tickets for each guinea; and benefactors of ten guineas are entitled to three recommendatory tickets yearly, for life; those of twenty guineas to six tickets; and so in proportion.

“The physicians select, from the patients recommended by the subscribers at large, the cases which are the most urgent, and the most necessary to be first received into the asylum; and, where the cases are equally urgent, a preference is given to the
prior

* This last act expired in the twelfth year of Queen Anne, 1714.

prior recommendation. The remaining cases are treated as out-patients till there is room for them in the house, or till they are cured, or supposed incapable of further relief.

“ Two rooms are set apart for the servants of subscribers, whose cases are proper to be admitted ; but as they pay 10s. 6d. per week if in-patients, and the full value of their medicines if out-patients, they are of course no charge upon the charity. Any person subscribing for the special purpose of having a servant admitted as an in-patient, pays two guineas.

“ The children belonging to the School of Industry are admitted as out-patients, on the recommendation of any of the governors of that charity, the medicines being paid for at prime cost.

“ Attendance is given by the physicians, gratis, at the Dispensary on the Lower Borough-Walls, every day at one o'clock, Sunday excepted ; and by the surgeons, whenever cases occur on which the physicians wish to consult them.

“ The apothecary lives in the house, has the charge of the in-patients in the absence of the physicians, visits and reports to the physicians the cases of the out-patients which do not require the attendance of the physicians themselves, and prepares and dispenses all the medicines.—Patients living out of the city cannot be visited at their own houses, on account of the distance.

“ A committee of subscribers is chosen annually, which meets every Monday to transact the business of the charity ; and each of the gentlemen who compose it takes his turn weekly to visit the asylum once a day, to inspect the provisions of the patients, to see they are taken care of in every respect, and that the regulations are duly executed.”

The *Casualty Hospital* was established by a few inhabitants of the city of Bath, in the year 1788, and affords an asylum, till recovery, to paupers who have been injured by accident. It is situated in King's-Mead Street ; is supported by voluntary contributions ;

contributions; and the cases attended to by a respectable surgeon.

The *Puerperal*, or *Child-bed Charity*, was established in 1792, for the relief of poor married women in the perilous time of child-bearing, at their own dwellings; and provides for them proper midwives of their own choice in natural labours, and medical advice in preternatural cases.

Besides these institutions for the relief or cure of bodily complaints, there are in this city three establishments for the instruction of the young mind, and as many for the diffusion of scientific and philosophical knowledge; the public Grammar-School, Charity Schools, and Sunday Schools; the Society for the Encouragement of Agriculture, Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce; the Philosophical Society; and the Public Library.

The public *Grammar-School* is an elegant structure, on the west side of Broad Street, built in the year 1752; with handsome apartments for the master's family, and good accommodations for a large number of boarders. The salary amounts to forty guineas per annum, paid by the corporation; with the addition of the little living of Charlecombe, near Bath, annexed to the school by the Rev. Walter Robins, a few years since. This establishment was founded by Edward the Sixth, under the same charter that established the Black-Alms charity; and the same infidelity in discharging their trust was displayed by the corporation in this instance as in the other. Their abuses and peculations continued to be carried on with impunity till the early part of the 18th century, when Mr. Walter Robinson, being nominated to the mastership of the school, and aware of the scandalous conduct of the corporation, filed a bill in chancery against them, to compel compliance with the original conditions of the foundation. On this process a writ of execution issued in the tenth of George the Second, which, after observing upon the abuses to which the establishment had been exposed, directs, "that for thirty-five years, from the date of the writ, the master
should

should instruct, *gratis*, ten boys, children of freemen or inhabitants of Bath; during which time he should be paid 20*l.* per annum, as his salary. That after the expiration of that term they should allow the master 50*l.*” In obedience to this writ the corporation built the present school-house; the first stone of which was laid by the mayor, attended by the corporation, the companies of the city, and a band of music.—The following inscription was engraven on it:

“Auspicato surgat hocce Domicilium, ad humaniores Literas bonasque Artes disseminandas bene ac sapienter designatum. Hoc jecit Fundamentum FRANCISCUS HALES, hujus Urbis Prætor, Mensis Maii diei 29^o. A. D. MDCCCLII. Annoque regnantis GEORGII SECUNDI 25^o.”

In the year 1711, the celebrated Robert Nelson, Esq. proposed a subscription at Bath, for the foundation of a *Charity-School*. The benevolent suggestion was seconded by several pious and respectable characters; and the fund had become so considerable by the year 1722, that the committee, named to manage the charity, employed Mr. Killegrew, the architect, to build them the present school-house on the Borough-Walls; which was compleated at the expence of 1000*l.* the corporation assisting the work by a grant of the land, and a handsome subscription. Mr. Hoare laid the foundation-stone on the 12th of October, in that year, inscribed with the following modest line—

“God’s Providence is our Inheritance.”

The charity is supported by collections, made twice every year, (as is the case for the General Hospital) at all the churches and chapels in Bath; by casual donations and legacies, and annual subscriptions. The institution receives fifty boys and fifty girls, who are taught reading, writing, and arithmetic; sewing, knitting, and housewifery business. They must be recommended (by the annual subscribers) between the age of six and twelve years; and at fourteen are placed by the trustees apprentices to different trades, according to their respective bents or genius. A sum
not

not exceeding 6l. is given with every boy as an apprentice-fee, and 2l. with every girl. The trustees are ten in number.

Henry Southby, Esq. a gentleman of Bath, succeeded in establishing there, in the year 1785, *Sunday-Schools*, for the instruction of the children of the poor in "that knowledge which alone maketh wise unto salvation." The regulations upon which it was established expresses, 1st. That the appointment of the masters and mistresses should be in the rectors of Walcot and Bath. 2d. That the books of instruction should be such only as are in the list of those recommended by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. 3d. That the children should attend divine service every Sunday at the Abbey. 4th. That all children recommended from the parishes of Bath, Walcot, Widcombe, and Bathwick, should be admitted into the schools. The children admitted, originally amounted to 1000, out of which 160 boys and girls were selected, and received into a house fitted up for the purpose in St. James's Street, (called the *School of Industry*) for a certain number of hours every day, where they were to be taught the principles of the Christian religion; and employed in sewing, knitting, and making nets, under the superintendence of proper mistresses, and the occasional inspection of ladies and gentlemen, and clothed in a neat uniform out of the funds of the institution. The remainder of the children were to be divided into separate schools, and instructed on the Sundays only; but from that number the occasional vacancies in the selected children were to be filled up. Upon this plan, and to this extent, the Sunday-Schools were carried on for many years; but the circumstances of the times, for these few years back, unfavourable to institutions maintained by gratuitous benevolences, have lessened the patronage of this establishment, and circumscribed to the number of 100, the children received into the *School of Industry*.

The Bath and West of England Society for the encouragement of Agriculture, Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce, and which, under the skilful direction, persevering activity, and judicious management,

management, of Mr. William Matthews, the late secretary, has decidedly surpassed every other establishment of the same nature in Europe, was suggested and established by the late Mr. Edmund Rack, of Bath, in the year 1777. Its operations were at first chiefly restricted to the counties of Somerset, Wilts, Gloucester, and Dorset; but having, in the course of a few years, extended its correspondence, and increased its members, its views became gradually wider; and now every part of economics, and every branch of philosophy connected with husbandry, in the most general acceptation of the term, is an object to which the society bends its attention. Under the powerful patronage of the noble president, and assisted by the communications of some of the best farmers, both practical and scientific, in the kingdom, the establishment is rapidly extending itself in magnitude and utility; and the volumes which it already has published, and still continues to publish occasionally, bid fair to form a mass of agricultural information, which no other country in the world can boast. The meetings are held in Hetling-House, formerly the winter Bath residence of the noble family of Hungerford.

The *Philosophical Society* was established in the year 1799, by some respectable literary characters in Bath, upon a plan somewhat similar to that at Manchester, and having the same laudable ends in view—the promotion of science, and the diffusion of knowledge. Each member reads in his turn, at the regular weekly meeting, a paper on some philosophical subject, the nature of which is suggested on the preceding evening, that the society may be prepared to discuss it when it comes before them in a regular communication.

A *Public Library* also, upon a plan *judicious*, because it is intended to include only books of science, and works of great expence, and *liberal*, in as much as it will not interfere with the *circulating libraries*, to which Bath has been much indebted, was established towards the conclusion of the year 1800.*

During

* Vide Historical and Descriptive Account of Bath, and Warner's History.

During the last year, 1810, a numerous and respectable meeting of the inhabitants was held at the Guildhall, when it was resolved to establish a Free-School, on the truly excellent plan of Joseph Lancaster; a gentleman whose name will be handed down to posterity as the friend of the human race, and whose bust will stand next to those of Howard and of Nield. A subscription for this benevolent purpose was immediately begun, and the greatest ardour and zeal evinced by the gentlemen present, in raising a proper sum by a tontine, consisting of twenty-five pounds each, for the purchase of ground, and the erection of a suitable building for the school.

At this city there has also recently been instituted an Auxiliary Bible Society; and a year or two ago was formed a Penitentiary for the Reformation of Prostitutes, on the plan of the London Society for that purpose. This godlike institution is conducted with zeal and success.

It may easily be conceived, that in such a city as this, there is no deficiency of places of PUBLIC AMUSEMENT: and, indeed, it is not unreasonable to suppose, that a great majority of the virtues ascribed to the use of the Bath Waters, have their real origin in the opportunities afforded to the numerous visitors of relaxation from the duties of business, or the more extravagant and intemperate amusements of the metropolis. The bulk of "arrivals," as they technically express it, does not consist altogether of the weak, the aged, and the sickly; but the young, the middle-aged, the healthy, and the ardent, who come here rather to enjoy, than to acquire a sound constitution, and a flow of good spirits. Hence these very waters, which were once visited only at the painful calls of necessity, and this place, once to be considered as a great hospital for the sick and the dying, are now attended by the votaries of fashion, and are converted into scenes of gaiety and delight; while the sighs of the languishing, and the groans of the afflicted, are lost in songs of mirth and cheerfulness. The description of Bath-amusements properly

properly commences with the history of their founder,* and original director, the renowned Richard Nash, Esq.

This gentleman was a native of Wales : he was born October 18, 1674, at Swansea, in Glamorganshire, of respectable parents, who, though by no means rich, contrived to give their son a classical education, the rudiments of which he acquired at Carmarthen-school, from whence, at the age of sixteen, he entered of Jesus College, Oxford, where it was intended he should pursue the study of the law. The sombre and knotty character of these studies but ill accorded with the gay and vivacious disposition of young Nash ; and he soon convinced his friends that he had far greater talents for fashion and intrigue, than for law and jurisprudence ; and that he was much better qualified to shine as a beau than as a bencher. Before he had completed the seventeenth year of his age, and the first of his matriculation, he initiated himself into all the secret mysteries of a college love-adventure. He made a free tender of his personal services, by offering marriage, which offer was, of course, accepted : for Nash, though not rich, was young, polite, and handsome. Happily, however, the affair coming to the knowledge of his friends, his premature destruction was prevented ; and he was sent home with such admonition from his tutors, and such instructions to his father, as the nature of his case required.

He now embraced the more appropriate profession of arms—a pair of colours was procured him ; and he addressed himself with ardour to the glorious conquests of love and gallantry. He became a lover by profession—an universal admirer of the fairest part of the creation ; and he dressed as became his avowed pursuits, to the very extent of the fashion, and even beyond that of his finances ; but the inferiority of his rank, and still more the habits, or the show, of subordination and restraint, soon made

* Strictly speaking, Bath was, though in a very inferior degree, a place of public amusement before this time. The first Master of the Ceremonies was Captain Webster, who fell in a duel, fought in the Grove, about the year 1703. Mr. Nash was the immediate successor of the captain.

made him disgusted with the army. The balls of an assailing enemy would not, perhaps, have alarmed him—for Nash was too proud to be a coward; yet it was clear, both to himself and his friends, that he was much better calculated to serve under Cupid than under Mars. Accordingly he soon quitted the army, but still indulged his habits of dissipation and intrigue.

He next entered himself a student of the Middle Temple, and entirely gave himself up to his favourite amusements. He was, for some years, a complete man of the town—a second-rate gentleman, dressing in the frippery and tawdry habiliments of a professed beau. He was to be seen at all places of public amusement; at the gaming-houses, and the theatre; and wherever ladies of beauty and fashion resorted, there was Nash sure to be found. He had now fully established his reputation as a man of wit, gallantry, and hilarity; and his whole time was devoted to gaming and the ladies.

At this period King William was on the throne of these realms, and it was an ancient custom for the inns of court to entertain every new monarch, on his accession, with a revel and a pageant. This was a matter of great importance, and to perform it with credit required the talents of an experienced person. Nash was clearly the man; and to him the Templars immediately turned their attention. He was accordingly fixed upon, and the selection was well made; for the revel was conducted entirely to the king's satisfaction. The honours of knighthood were offered to Nash; but, whatever might be his vanity, or his pride, in other respects, he had good sense enough to refuse such unreal favours, which could only elevate his rank, without increasing his income. "Please your majesty," said he, "if you intend to make me knight, I wish it may be one of your poor knights of Windsor; and then I shall have a fortune at least equal to support my title." This hint passed unnoticed by the sovereign, and Nash remained without money, and, happily, without a title.

In the year 1704, Bath had acquired some degree of celebrity

as a place of fashionable resort. At least, the company was sufficiently numerous and respectable to require the superintendence of a Master of the Ceremonies; and Captain Webster having been killed in a duel, Mr. Nash was appointed to the vacant office. For the due exercise of the important functions of this situation, Nash was entrusted with almost unlimited powers, to invent, arrange, and conduct such amusements, and points of etiquette, as he might conceive conducive to the pleasure and convenience of the company. He entered on his duties with uncommon zeal and ardour, and under his auspices the city of Bath quickly arose, if not to its ancient Roman grandeur, at least to be one of the first cities in the kingdom for pleasure, elegance, and taste. No patriot king ever ascended the throne with a livelier ambition to promote the honour and splendor of his dominions, or the comfort and happiness of his subjects, than did our monarch of Bath, to advance the interests and regulate the conduct of these new dominions of fashion and gaiety. The roads that led to the city in various directions were quickly repaired and improved; while additional and more convenient ones were made. New places of public amusement were constructed; and the pumps and baths rendered more agreeably useful to the company that visited them. Benevolent and charitable institutions were formed; and, in short, nothing within his own power, or the finances of those over whom he had any influence, was wanting to render Bath a city worthy of its ancient importance, and the value of its medicinal springs. Regulations of the wisest and most prudent kind were adopted; and the strictest impartiality observed in their administration. No consideration whatever could induce him to suffer, with impunity, the slightest breach of his laws, or admit for a moment the suspension of his decrees, which were all founded on the purest principles of decorum and justice. The Duchess of Queensberry appearing in an apron at the dress-ball, was deliberately requested to take off the inappropriate article of dress; and Nash immediately threw it to her grace's servants, who stood behind in waiting. Even

the Princess Amelia could not be indulged, though she humbly requested it, in a single dance, after eleven o'clock. "The laws of Bath," said Nash, "are like those of Lycurgus, unalterable." This unbounded sway he maintained by undeviating perseverance and unconquerable firmness; and yet he did not neglect to call in the powerful auxiliaries of dress and equipage. A chariot, drawn by six grey horses; a retinue of attendants on horseback and on foot, having French horns, and various other instruments of music; cloaths profusely adorned with lace, and a large white cocked-hat, gave "Beau Nash" a most superb appearance. He thus overawed the unthinking and the vain; nor were these things without their influence, even on the wise and the virtuous. Nash was well acquainted with the weak and vulnerable parts of human nature, as well as with those of a good and benevolent kind; and he did not fail to make suitable advantage of his knowledge. Many of the first characters and personages of the day gave him marks of their regard. The Prince of Wales and the Prince of Orange condescended to shew him respect; on every question of public interest to the corporation, he was consulted; and, to crown the whole, a marble statue of the "King of Bath," was erected by a public subscription, and placed, absurdly enough, between the busts of Newton and Pope, in the Pump-Room. Pope was the friend of Nash, and at his request, after some hesitation, he consented to write an inscription for the obelisk in Queen's Square, erected in commemoration of the Prince of Wales's visit to Bath.*

The reign of Nash's glory lasted much longer than one would have supposed it could have done, from a reflection on the feeble and extrinsic nature of the tenure by which it was held. His great expences were upheld by an almost uninterrupted run of good luck at play; and his friends, for a time, were on the increase, from the universal flow of pleasure and hilarity that always attended wherever he presided. At length, however, the tide of his popularity began to subside—old age and sick-

ness,

* Warner, p. 368.

ness, unsupported by the enjoyments of affluence, began to convince him that jests and politeness, dissipation and frivolity, are not the best supports in times of need. The great, as they are often falsely denominated, basely deserted him in the moments of his distress and want. No longer able to contribute to their pleasures, all their boasted regard vanished like a morning cloud, and he ultimately derived no other advantage from their empty friendships than a demonstration, which, alas! came too late for present value, that there is no safety but in virtue, and no substantial happiness but in useful and commendable pursuits. Poor and dejected, despised, and almost forsaken, Mr. Nash died, in the eighty-eighth year of his age, on the third of February, 1761, at his house in St. John's Court, Bath. His death was lamented by the corporation, at whose expence he was buried, in the Abbey Church, with some pomp, and great solemnity. His epitaph, by Dr. Harrington, we have already given among other monumental inscriptions in that church. His character was of such a mixture and complicated cast, as to render it difficult to speak of it, without at least the appearance of severity, or else of compromising the great interests of truth and religion, for paltry considerations of respect, for extravagant liberality, and a sort of corrosive politeness and good-nature. There is a fashionable candour, very prevalent at the present day, by which many are led to compliment the spendthrift and the gamester, yea, the duelist and the quarrelsome man, on the goodness of his heart, and the rectitude of his principles; and some people are quite shocked to hear the just sentence of reprobation denounced against those who are "nobody's enemy but their own," as the saying is; though nothing can be more obvious than this truth, that he who acts uniformly contrary to his own real interests, will in the end be found to have conferred no effectual and lasting benefits on society. It is in this sense that "self-love and social order are the same;" their interests terminate in the common good, as they flow from the same broad principles of an enlightened virtue, and a dignified benevolence. Mr. Nash, in an eminent degree,

was the patron of decorum and public decency—he was the friend and the guardian of the fair sex—he was the strenuous assertor and unshaken support of order and regularity—he was honourable and charitable, humane and affectionate, just and grateful—he would gladly have diffused universal happiness, could that have been obtained on his own principles, and consistently with his own pursuits. Could politeness and good-breeding, could wit and pleasantry, could hilarity and freedom, have cured the pangs of remorse, or have healed the diseases of the afflicted, few had been wretched within the influence of Nash, but, alas! his was not the “narrow way that leadeth unto life;” and it is to be feared that his example but too often had a deleterious effect on the minds of the weak, the thoughtless, the gay, and the profligate, by leading them to look with less respect to the seriousness and the strictness of religion, and with greater indifference on the evils of dissipation, folly, and extravagance. Peace, however, to his ashes! it is not our wish or our province, to condemn with severity, or to judge with rigour.

Mr. Wood has given a circumstantial detail of the routine of amusements formerly used at Bath; it is sufficient for our purpose to commence with the rules and regulations drawn up by Nash, in the year 1742. Till very lately they hung up in the Lower Rooms, and are as follow:

RULES BY GENERAL CONSENT DETERMINED, 1742.

I. That a visit of ceremony at coming to Bath, and another at going away, is all that is expected or desired by ladies of quality and fashion—except impertinents.

II. That ladies coming to the ball, appoint a time for their footmen’s coming to wait on them home, to prevent disturbances and inconveniences to themselves and others.

III. That gentlemen of fashion, never appearing in a morning before the ladies in gowns and caps, shew breeding and respect.

IV. That no person take it ill that any one goes to another’s play or breakfast, and not to theirs—except captious by nature.

V. That

V. That no gentleman give his tickets for the balls to any but gentlewomen.—N. B. Unless he has none of his acquaintance.

VI. That gentlemen crowding before the ladies at a ball, shew ill-manners; and that none do so for the future—except such as respect nobody but themselves.

VII. That no gentleman or lady take it ill that another dances before them—except such as have no pretence to dance at all.

VIII. That the elder ladies and children be contented with a second bench at the ball, as being past or not come to perfection.

IX. That the younger ladies take notice how many eyes observe them.—N. B. This does not extend to the *have-at-alls*.

X. That all whisperers of lies and scandal be taken for their authors.

XI. That all repeaters of such lies and scandal be shunned by all company—except such as have been guilty of the same crime.

N. B. Several men of no character, old women, and young ones of questioned reputation, are great authors of lies in this place, being of the sect of *levellers*.

It was not till the year 1771, that the amusements and accommodations at Bath were made complete, by the opening of the NEW ASSEMBLY, or UPPER ROOMS; the first stone of which was laid in 1769, under the direction of the late Mr. Wood, architect. They cost 20,000*l*. The New Rooms are at present kept by Mr. Stroud, and are, perhaps, the most elegant suite of apartments dedicated to public pleasure in the empire.

The conduct of the company who join in the festivities of these rooms is regulated by the following rules:

NEW ASSEMBLY-ROOMS.

“Resolved, That the power of direction and controul, relative to the public amusements of these rooms, is in the subscribers to the dress balls, and them only.

“That the weekly public amusements in these rooms, during the season, be as follows:

“Wednesday night, concert.

“Thursday night, fancy ball.

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“Monday

“ Monday night, dress ball.

“ Tuesday night, card assembly.

“ N. B. *The rooms to be open every day, Sunday excepted, for cards ; and every other Sunday evening, for a promenade.*

“ That a subscription of one guinea to the dress balls shall entitle such subscriber to admission every ball night ; and also to two tickets, transferable to ladies only.

“ That a subscription of half a guinea to the dress-ball shall entitle such subscriber to one ticket every night, not transferable. Young ladies and gentlemen at their school vacation will be admitted, when introduced by a subscriber.

“ That a subscription of half a guinea to the fancy-ball shall entitle the subscriber to one ticket every ball-night ; this ticket not transferable.

“ That the dress and fancy balls shall begin as soon as possible after seven o'clock, and conclude precisely at eleven, even in the middle of a dance.

“ That in future every person, on admission to these rooms on dress and fancy ball nights, shall pay sixpence for tea.

“ That a reasonable time be allowed, between the minuets and country-dances, for ladies of precedence to take their places ; and that those who shall stand up after the dance is begun, must take their places for that dance at the bottom.

“ That no lady do permit another to come in above her after she has taken her place in the set.

“ That ladies who intend dancing minuets do wear lappets ; and it is requested that the rest of their dress be as conformable as possible to this distinction, regard being had to the prevailing fashion of the times. It is also hoped, that gentlemen will accommodate their dress to the ladies.

“ That the three front seats, at the upper end of the room, be reserved for the ladies of precedence of the rank of Peeresses of Great Britain or Ireland.

“ That gentlemen's annual subscription for walking in these rooms be half a guinea ; and ladies' subscription for the same five shillings.

“ That

“ That no person be permitted to frequent the walking in these rooms who is not a subscriber.

“ That no gentlemen in boots, or half-boots, be admitted into any of these rooms on ball nights, or public card or concert nights.

“ That no person be admitted into any of these on dress-ball nights without a ticket ; but that no ticket of admission to the card-room be required on fancy-ball nights from such persons as subscribe to the walking subscription.

“ That non-subscribers be admitted to the promenade on Sunday evening ; gentlemen paying one shilling, and ladies sixpence, tea included.

“ That the renters of these rooms having agreed with the subscribers to furnish twenty-six dress-balls on the guinea subscription, and thirty fancy-balls on the half-guinea subscription, no annual account of the expenditure be required of them.

“ That the musical band of these rooms do consist of twelve performers, including a harp, tabor, and pipe ; each performer to be allowed a sum not exceeding half-a-guinea on each ball-night for his attendance, which money is to be taken from the subscription of the respective balls.*

“ That five guineas per week be allowed from the dress-ball subscription, to the payment of the accustomed band of ten performers in the Pump-Room.

“ That no person be permitted to play with cards left by another party.

“ That no hazard, or unlawful game of any sort, be allowed

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* The master of the Upper Rooms pays 50l. each season ; and the corporation 50l. but these sums, united to the produce of a subscription-book open for that purpose, are inadequate to support the music for the time it was formerly kept up. The company is therefore abridged of one of its chief sources of amusement, and a real injury is done to the interest of the city. The Pump-Room band is, confessedly, the first in the kingdom, from their constantly practising together ; and their drawing the whole city to one spot daily, was of inestimable pleasure to the company, as well as of advantage to the trading part of the inhabitants.

in these rooms on any account whatever, nor any cards on Sundays.

“ That all future orders and regulations agreed to in general meetings be inserted in the subscribers’ book, and signed by the chairman of the meeting for the time being ; such orders and rules not to be altered by any authority whatever, but at a general meeting of the subscribers ; and that the said book be deposited in trust with the renters of the rooms, to be produced at any time when a meeting of the subscribers to the dress-balls shall be assembled, or when three or more subscribers shall desire to see the same.

“ That not less than nine of the subscribers to the dress-balls be competent to call a general meeting upon any business relative to these rooms ; the said nine to leave a summons, signed with their names, upon the table, for the space of one week previous to such meeting ; which summons shall also express the particular purpose for which such meeting is called, and shall be published in the Bath papers.

“ That the Master of the Ceremonies, on receiving information of any person’s acting in opposition to these resolutions, do signify to such persons, that, as Master of the Ceremonies, it is his duty to see the orders of the subscribers properly enforced.

“ As the late great extension of the city puts it out of the power of the Master of the Ceremonies to be regularly informed of the several persons who arrive here, he hopes they will be so indulgent to him, as not to charge him with want of attention, if he should happen to omit visiting them ; and he thus publicly requests ; that they will, on their arrival, cause their names, with their places of abode, to be inserted in a book kept at the Pump-Room for that purpose, which will afford him such information as will enable him to comply with his own wishes, and the expectations of the public.

“ And as it is extremely desirable that all improper company may be kept from these rooms, he requests also, that all strangers, as well ladies as gentlemen, will give him an opportunity

tunity of being introduced to them, before they hold themselves entitled to that attention and respect, which he is ambitious and ever will be studious to shew to every individual resorting to this place.

“ RICHARD TYSON,

“ Master of the Ceremonies.”

These regulations were confirmed at the general meeting on the recent election of Mr. King, with the exception of one addition, proposed by a venerable subscriber, “ with eighty summers o’er his head ”—which after some debate was carried. This gentleman, after making some remarks on the present state of manners, and observing that modern gentlemen had exchanged for that exterior carriage and appearance, which formerly were alone sufficient to designate their character and rank in life, an awkward timidity, an embarrassed manner, and a total deficiency in all the accomplishments of the dancing-school, proposed, as the best means of remedying so alarming an evil, which had increased, was increasing, and ought to be diminished, that minuets should be danced at every dress-ball previous to the commencement of the country dances. This, being seconded by a member of almost as great antiquity as the mover, was finally carried ; but, notwithstanding their paternal care for improving the manners of the rising generation, the law has hitherto remained a dead letter, not one minuet having been danced, except those which form the regular establishment of the Master of the Ceremonies’ ball. On the last recurrence of this ceremony, at his successor’s ball, Mr. Tyson, it happening to be his seventieth birth-day, danced a minuet with so much dignity and grace, as to make the young spectators fully feel their own inferiority to those of former times.

To give some idea how well these rooms are adapted for the reception of so numerous a company as now frequent Bath, it may be sufficient to say, that on the occasion alluded to, no less than two thousand and eighty tickets were received at the doors, and that the general number on the ball nights is from eight to twelve hundred. The Monday dress-ball is devoted to country dances alone. At the fancy-ball, on Thursday, two cotillions are

are danced, one before and one after tea. In the height of the season there are generally twelve sets ; and as the ladies, on this occasion, exert their fancy to the utmost in the display of their shapes and their dress, the spectacle is magnificent. To this splendid establishment are attached card-rooms, billiard-rooms, concert-rooms, and coffee-rooms. The office of Master of the Ceremonies at these rooms is estimated at eight hundred pounds per annum value. But, whatever be the amount, were it doubled, the difficulty, delicacy, incessant cares and duties of the office, well deserve reward ; and no man living better understands, or performs, his duties more honourably to himself, or satisfactorily to the public, than Mr. King.

The terms of admission at the rooms, are a subscription of half a guinea for the season, each gentleman, and five shillings from each lady, for which they are entitled, at any proper time, to walk and play at cards, excepting on Sundays ; and on alternate Sundays they are also permitted to walk ; but this is adopted by few.

The routine of amusements are : a *dress-ball* every week, viz. Monday. The subscription is one pound six shillings, for which every subscriber has two tickets, transferable to ladies only. Subscribers of twelve shillings receive one ticket, which is not transferable.

There is also a *fancy-ball* every week, on Thursday. The subscription twelve shillings ; the ticket not transferable.

Besides this succession of balls, there are nine subscription concerts, and three choral nights at the New-Rooms, in winter. A subscriber of three guineas and a half is entitled to an admission ticket for the twelve concerts, not transferable : and to two tickets for each concert, transferable to ladies only. Subscribers of smaller sums have adequate advantages ; and for the accommodation of strangers, subscriptions are also received for part of the concerts, on proportional terms. Non-subscribers to the fancy-balls pay five shillings, and to the concerts seven shillings each time.*

Besides

* Vide Guide to the Watering Places, p. 45.

Besides the regulations already cited, till the Lower-Rooms were closed for still further improvements, the following were the rules by which the conduct of the company was governed:

“ LOWER ASSEMBLY-ROOMS,

“ Oct. first, 1787.

“ The Master of the Ceremonies respectfully submits the following regulations to the company for their assent.

“ 1st. That the seats at the upper end of the room be reserved for peeresses, and foreign ladies of distinction.

“ 2dly. That ladies who dance minuets be permitted to sit in the front of the side-rows, to avoid giving unnecessary trouble to those who do not dance.

“ 3dly. That ladies who dance minuets be in full dress, with lappets: gentlemen also in full dress; those of the army or navy are considered very properly dressed when in uniform, with their hair *queue*.

“ 4thly. That after a lady has called a dance, it being finished, her place in the next dance is at the bottom.

“ N. B. It is deemed a point of good-breeding, for ladies that have gone down the dance, to continue in their places till the rest have done the same.

“ 5thly. That those who stand up after the country-dance is called, do take their place at the bottom, unless rank entitles them to precedence: and the ladies are requested not to permit the intrusion of any couples above them, such compliance conferring a partial obligation, to the material inconvenience of those who stand below them.

“ 6thly. That as the subscription balls end precisely at eleven, the company do assemble as soon as possible after six o'clock.

“ 7thly. That each lady and gentleman on public nights pay sixpence on entering the room, which will entitle them to tea.

“ 8thly. That ladies may, if they please, wear hats in the public rooms in the evening, except on ball or concert nights. Gentlemen are not to wear boots in the rooms of an evening, nor spurs in the Pump-Room of a morning.

“ 9thly.

“ 9thly. That no hazard, or unlawful games, will be allowed in these rooms on any account whatever, nor cards on Sundays.

“ Lastly. That ladies and gentlemen coming to town give orders that their names and places of abode be entered in any of the Pump-Room books; and the Master of the Ceremonies thus publicly requests the favour of such ladies and gentlemen to whom he has not the honour of being personally known, to offer him some favourable occasion of being presented to them, that he may be enabled to shew that attention, not more his duty than his inclination to observe.

“ JAMES KING, M. C.”

Though, properly speaking, the *Private Baths* do not belong to the subject of Bath amusements, it may not be amiss in this place to take some notice of them. The following rules and orders are established for the regulation of the Baths of the corporation in Stall Street.

“ A serjeant shall not demand more than threepence for each time of bathing. A guide shall not demand more than one shilling for each time of bathing. A cloth-woman shall not demand more than threepence for each time of bathing.

“ Pumping in the King’s and Queen’s Bath twopence each hundred strokes; in the private baths threepence; at the dry pump, fourpence each hundred strokes.*

“ No serjeant, bath-guide, cloth-woman, or chairman, shall demand any thing of a bather for his or her entrance upon bathing or pumping, which has been usually demanded by the name of footing-money.

“ Sufficient fires (at the expence of the chamber of the city) to be made in the slips; to be lighted at six o’clock in the morning in the winter, and at five in the summer season, and to be continued the usual hours of bathing.

“ Bathing is allowed on all holidays, excepting Christmas-Day and Good-Friday.”

The

* “ The said fees are to be understood so as not to affect people in low circumstances, or servants; such being allowed to bathe for sixpence only to the guide, for linen and attendance.”

The following are the expences of bathing, &c. in the new private baths and hot bath :

“ Each person bathing in the open bath, to pay one shilling and sixpence for each time of bathing. In the private bath, vapour bath, or sweating-room, three shillings. Bathing in the private bath, and afterwards using the sweating-room, or vapour bath, four shillings. For the use of a bed, two shillings and sixpence. Pumping in the bath, threepence for one hundred strokes ; and at the dry pump, sixpence.

“ The bath and pump to be paid for each time of using ; and every person bespeaking a bath, must pay for the same, though not used, unless due notice be given, that the bath may be let again. Dresses, towels, &c. included in the terms.

“ N. B. Any lady or gentleman having cause of complaint against the attendants of any of the baths, is desired to make such complaint to the magistrates of the Town-Hall, on Monday mornings, at twelve o'clock.”

In conjunction with the public amusements of Bath, it would be unpardonable to omit some notice of the late Signor Venanzio Rauzzini, a gentleman so well known in the musical world, and whose talents and long exertions have contributed so eminently to the advancement of Bath, as the empire and seat of fashion and gaiety.

This gentleman was by birth a Roman, and was from his infancy dedicated to the profession of music. He soon became popular ; and, while a very young man, was engaged as a principal singer at the Opera at Vienna. This office is considered in Germany as a place of great honour, and Rauzzini did not disgrace it. From Vienna he went to Munich, and remained some years in the service of the Elector of Bavaria. At this time Dr. Burney met with him.* In the year 1774 he was engaged to sing at the English Opera. He was then considered as the best performer on the piano-forte, and as understanding the principles of musical composition better than any public singer

* See Burney's Musical Tour.

singer that had preceded him. His residence in the metropolis was but of short duration, and he was induced to settle at Bath, where, in conjunction with La Motte, he became the conductor of the public concerts. La Motte shortly withdrew, and Rauzzini was left singly in the concern, which he managed with unusual satisfaction both to himself and the public.

As a scientific musician, Rauzzini has long been considered as one of the first in this nation; he composed several operas, and a great variety of detached pieces of merit. His success and reputation as a teacher perhaps stands unrivalled, of which no farther proof is necessary than to add that Mara, Mrs. Billington, Mrs. Mountain, Braham, and Incledon were among his illustrious pupils.

As a man, Rauzzini was generally esteemed and even beloved. He was of mild, pleasant, and polite habits; generous, hospitable, and fond of society. Though few or no vices attached to his character, he possessed his full share of that imprudence and extravagant gaiety so common to his countrymen, and, unhappily, so frequently attached to the lively members of his profession. A public musician, free from pecuniary embarrassments, is a rare character; not for want of public patronage and support, but from a sort of professional prodigality, from which few are exempt; though, we believe, it will be found that the exotic taste of our countrymen has generally tended to enrich foreigners, while the merits of native talents have gone unrewarded, or left to struggle against a thousand difficulties, from which numerous emigrant Italians have been wholly exempt. It is gratifying to us to have this opportunity of recording our detestation of such unnatural and ungrateful conduct. It is not enough that our blood and treasure be squandered in useless wars and extravagant subsidies for the maintenance of foreign monarchs and lazy continental princes, but we must submit, too, to a drainage of the same kind to support, very often to enrich, their vagrant subjects, who, after having in a few years acquired as much property among us as would

would have rendered thousands of our own countrymen happy, slink away from our shores to laugh at our credulity in the Vale of Arno. We wish not to pass this censure indiscriminately; Rauzzini was, and one or two others still are, exemptions: the former lived and died among us; he did not enrich himself by our liberality, and then desert us; and the latter persons to whom we allude are of such transcendant merit, that happy is that country which can command and reward their genius. The subject of this brief memoir died at his house in Jay-Street, Bath, on the eighth of April, 1810, aged sixty-two.

The Bath theatre is little inferior, in elegance and attraction, to those of the metropolis; but it was not till, comparatively, late years, that this city could boast of a house in any degree worthy the talents of the many performers who, at various times, have, at this place, adorned the profession. In the November of 1747, Mr. John Hippesley submitted proposals to the public for the erection of a new theatre, the old "play-room" being so small and incommodious, that the profits arising from the performance would not support a large and good company. Mr. Hippesley's plan for some time met with very little encouragement, till the proprietor of the old play-room "having engaged never again to let it for dramatic purposes, on condition that a new and commodious theatre were built," Mr. John Palmer, a brewer, of this city, and a gentleman of a liberal and enterprising spirit, prevailed on nine other of his fellow-citizens to unite with him in a subscription for that purpose. This scheme was carried into execution; but shortly afterwards the owner of the old room improved and opened his own place in opposition. This breach of contract necessarily produced a long, violent, and expensive struggle, which ended in most of the proprietors selling their shares, to Mr. Palmer, whose zeal and perseverance enabled him to surmount every difficulty, and finally to subdue all opposition. He then enlarged his theatre to double its former dimensions, and obtained an act of Parliament

liament for the security thereof.* The King's Patent was made in the spring of 1768, "to the said John Palmer, Esq. his heirs and assignees." From him it devolved to his son, who still further improved it, and also united it with the Bristol theatre; at the same time disposing of a great part of the concern to his manager, Mr. Keasberry, and Mr. Dimond, the performer. Under the direction of Messrs. Palmer and Dimond, the Bath theatricals have acquired a most respectable character.

In the year 1804, it was judged expedient to erect a still more commodious theatre; and such was the persevering industry of Mr. Palmer, that in twelve months was completed one of the most superb and elegant buildings of the kind in England. It is situated in the centre of the city, and from its height, forms a very prominent feature in the coup d'œil, at a distance from all its environs. There are three entrances, in as many directions, the grand front being in Beaufort Square. The audience part is somewhat less than was that of the late Covent Garden theatre, but the space behind the curtain is much larger. The length, within the main walls, is one hundred and twenty feet; the breadth sixty feet; and the height seventy. The exterior buildings, containing dressing-rooms, scene-room, wardrobe, and every other convenience for the artists, servants, &c.; the anti-rooms, and saloons to the boxes; rooms to the numerous private boxes; taverns, &c. are very extensive. There are three tiers of boxes, excessively lofty, and affording a depth of rows towards the centre. Cast iron bronzed pillars are placed at a distance of two feet from the front, by which the first row of each circle appear as a balcony, independent of the main structure, and an inconceivable lightness is communicated to the tout ensemble. The private boxes are inclosed with gilt lattices: the entrance to them is by a private house, part of the property connected with the theatre, and

* This was the first act ever obtained to secure theatrical property.—Warner's Bath, p. 364.

and they are accommodated with a suite of retiring rooms. The decorations are very splendid, particularly the ceiling, which is divided into four compartments, each of which is adorned by one of those exquisite paintings by Cassali, formerly belonging to Font Hill, Wilts. The wreaths of flowers, &c. which connect these paintings are executed with great skill and taste. The walls are covered with stamped cloth, stuffed, of a crimson colour, and are papered above to the top of the boxes, with paper of the same colour; an Egyptian pattern, fringed with a gold stripe. The seats and edges of the boxes are also covered with cloth. The front is painted of the same colour, with four broad stripes of gold, and the centre ornamented with tasteful scrolls of gold. This uncommonly splendid structure was erected, ornamented, and furnished, solely by the citizens of Bath. It is calculated to hold nearly three hundred and fifty pounds, at the rate of five shilling to the boxes, pit three shillings, and the gallery one shilling and sixpence.*

Among the Bath amusements should also be mentioned the *Harmonic Society*, which was instituted under the patronage of the celebrated Dr. Harrington. There is another musical society, called *The York House Catch Club*; in short, Bath is wanting in nothing that can tend to contribute to the gaiety and attraction of a place honoured by the visits of the very first personages of the empire.

During the summer months, the residents in this city resort for amusement principally to *Sydney Garden Vauxhall*, at the extremity of Great Pulteney Street. It abounds with groves, vistas, lawns, serpentine walks, alcoves, bowling-greens, Merlin swings, grottoes, and labyrinths. The ground was laid out by Mr. Masters, and discovers marks of a correct and elegant taste. The garden is known to have contained an assemblage of four thousand persons. The amusements consist of public breakfasts, promenades, illuminations, and music. In the

* Monthly Mirror, Vol. XX.

course of the summer season, there are generally four or five gala nights.

The city of Bath cannot lay claim to much distinction, as the birth-place of eminent characters. Indeed the only native of this town we can find worthy of notice, is John Hales, usually called the Ever Memorable, who was born in 1584, and received the rudiments of his education in the grammar school there. At the age of thirteen he was sent to Corpus Christi College, Oxford; and in 1605, was chosen fellow of Merton, through the interest of Sir Henry Saville, warden of that college, who employed him, though very young, in his edition of St. Chrysostom. Such was his proficiency in the Greek language, that in 1612 he was not only appointed Greek lecturer in his particular college, but also elected Greek professor to the university.

About five years afterwards he accompanied the embassy of Sir Dudley Carleton to the Hague, in quality of chaplain. Through these means he procured admission to the Synod of Dort, and gave an account of their transactions and proceedings, in a series of letters written to Sir Dudley, afterwards published in his "Golden Remains."

Upon his return to England, he engaged himself warmly in promoting the interest of religion, which he avowed himself anxious to reduce to its primitive purity and simplicity. With this view, he wrote a small tract concerning schism and schismatics, in which he endeavoured to trace the original cause of all schism, and delivered his sentiments on the subject of ecclesiastical peace and concord with great openness and freedom. This tract being handed about in manuscript, a copy of it fell into the hands of Archbishop Laud, who having expressed great displeasure at several passages in it, gave occasion to a very remarkable letter by Hales, in vindication of himself, which was first printed in the seventh edition of a pamphlet entitled, "Difficulties and Discouragements." Some years subsequent to this the Archbishop sent for him to Lambeth, when, after a conversation

conversation of several hours, he was not only reconciled to that prelate, but even admitted into his particular friendship. Through the favour and approbation of the Archbishop, he was soon after preferred to a canonry of Windsor, as some say, on account of the assistance he gave him in composing the second edition of his answer to the "Jesuit Fisher," where the objections of "A. C." against the first edition are very learnedly and ably confuted. This situation he had the good fortune to enjoy only till the commencement of the civil wars in 1642. He then returned to the college of Eton, where he lived wholly unknown, without any other sustenance but bread and beer. His fellowship in this college he continued to hold for several months, notwithstanding his denying the covenant, and rejecting all compliance with the times; but he was ultimately ejected, upon his refusal to take the engagement. After this event, he suffered incredible hardships, and was compelled to sell his very valuable library, for the support of himself and friends. These funds being soon exhausted, necessity obliged him to have recourse to the bounty of a friend, a fate unfortunately too often the reward of those who have adorned the world by their genius, or reformed it by their precepts and example. Death at last put a period to his miseries, on the nineteenth of May, 1656, in the seventy-second year of his age; and the day following his remains were interred in Eton College church yard.

John Hales is mentioned by all his contemporary and succeeding writers, as one of the greatest, as well as best, characters any age ever produced. We are told he was a man not only of profound talents and erudition, but of great brilliancy as a wit, and taste and elegance as a poet. We cannot, therefore, but lament that some of those actions which ranked him with the great, are not mentioned by any of his biographers. It is melancholy to think how much knowledge and fancy, which might have instructed or delighted mankind, have been lost either by the modesty of the author, or the ignorance

or prejudices of his editors. Not a single dissertation on science or literature ; not a single poem or point of wit is handed down to us to testify the capacity of his mind, or the brilliancy of his conceptions. All we have of his works is a book published after his death, entitled, “ Golden Remains of the Ever Memorable John Hales,” being chiefly a collection of religious tracts, which, however calculated to excite the attention of the metaphysical theologian, can be of little benefit to society, and are ill adapted for the display of valuable erudition. We do not mean to question his proficiency in Greek, or the piety and integrity of his life ; but we cannot think these qualities sufficient to raise him so far above the level of his fellows as to entitle him to rank among the great or ever memorable.

In adverting to the eminent characters of Bath, it would be unpardonable, perhaps, not to mention the ingenious Mr. Anstey, a gentleman who, though a native of Wiltshire, has intimately connected his name with the biography of that city, both by his long residence there, and by his work entitled the “ New Bath Guide.” This production, which consists of a series of poetical epistles, excited great interest at the time of its publication, and is still deservedly considered, by every man of taste, as displaying great talents for poetry, and happy powers of satire and ridicule. The satire, moreover, though keen and pointed, is entirely free from grossness and personality. The wit and humour, as well as nice observation evinced in the delineation of his characters, and his remarks on the Bath amusements, the physicians, the extortions, public breakfasts, and balls, are highly amusing and instructive. Besides this work, Mr. Anstey published several other poems, which, though ingenious and elegant, are of less celebrity than that we have just mentioned. He died at the house of Henry Bosanquet, Esq. near Chippenham, in the year 1805, at the advanced age of eighty.

Batheaston.—This village is delightfully situated on the great road from London, in a parish to which it gives name,
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and hundred of Bath Forum, distant about two miles from the city. The whole parish is said to contain nearly 200 houses, and about 1100 inhabitants, the greater part of which occupy the village. The latter is divided into two portions, the upper and lower. The upper part lies northward from the great road, and contains the church, and several handsome houses, one of which was formerly the residence of John Wood, Esq. that ingenious architect, to whose taste and judgment Bath is indebted for many of its embellishments, and some of its noblest buildings. The lower part of Batheaston lies parallel with the great Roman *fosse* road.

The parish of Batheaston, in ancient times simply written ESTONE, formed part of the possessions of the Saxon kings. In the time of William the Conqueror, it was separated into two divisions, one of which was retained as a royal demesne, and the other appropriated to the church of Bath, as we find mentioned in the general survey of that monarch's reign. The former portion of these lands was annexed to the city of Bath, and bestowed along with it on John de Villula, Bishop of Bath, and his successors, by King William Rufus, in the fifth year of his reign. A short time after, the Bishop assigned the greater part of his possessions to the Abbey of St. Peter, in Bath, reserving only to himself the lordship of the manor, which was ever after held under the bishoprick.

The first lords of Batheaston mentioned after that period, are the family of Osatus, or Hosatus, subsequently softened into Hussee, or Hussy. In the reign of Henry the Second, when the aid was levied for the marriage of Maude, the king's daughter, to the Duke of Saxony, that family held several fees in these parts from the Bishop of Bath. Their principal seat was at Shockerwick, in the parish of Bathford. During the reign of the Edwards, the manor passed into the family of Fitzurse, or Fitzour, Lords of Willeton, in the county of Somerset. Upon the death of Sir Ralph Fitzurse, in the thirty-third year of the reign of Edward the Third, it was made over

to his eldest daughter, Maud, wife to Sir Hugh, the son and heir of Sir John Durborough, of Heathfield, who established her residence here for a considerable time. The manor afterwards became the property of the Briens, a very opulent family in this county. In the reign of Henry the Sixth, it was held by Avicia, wife of James Boteler, Earl of Wiltshire, and at her death fell to Humphrey Stafford, as the nearest of kin. A gentleman of the name of Blunt possessed it in the time of Edward the Sixth; and Thomas, Earl of Northumberland, during the reign of Philip and Mary. In 1667, it was sold to Sir Robert Dutton, of Tockenham Court, Bart. William Duckett, of Hartham, Esq. and Thomas Blanchard, of North Wraxall, Clerk, to James Lancashire, of Manchester. After this time we have no account of this manor, there being no court held in it, nor any manorial right whatever claimed.

The church of Batheaston, already mentioned as situated in the north part of the city, was built at a very early period, and dedicated to St. John the Baptist. It is a handsome Gothic building, about one hundred and twenty-eight feet in length, and twenty-two in breadth, consisting of a chancel, nave, and porch. At the west end of this church is a beautiful quadrangular embattled tower, of excellent workmanship, which is about one hundred feet high, and contains six bells. The roof of the nave exceeds twenty feet in height, and is ceiled and pannelled in square compartments of plasterer's work. On the outside of the roof, between the nave and the chancel, there is an arch, intended as a receptacle for a saint's bell. The flooring of this church is good, and it is internally clean, neat, and decent.

As already mentioned, this church was very early appropriated to the abbey of St. Peter, in Bath. About the year 1262, some dispute having taken place between the prior and convent of that monastery and the vicar of Batheaston, relative to certain tythes, the following composition was agreed to by the parties: It was stipulated, that the vicar should in future receive
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all the oblations, mortuaries and tythes within his parish, except in such lands as belonged to the prior and convent; that besides, he should have a free house and garden, together with the grass of the church yard; and in consideration of these grants, he was bound to sustain all the ordinary vicarial burdens, both in the church of Batheaston and in the chapel of St. Catherine, for the daily service of which he was to find a chaplain at his own expence. The church yard contains a few neat marble monuments, chiefly erected to the memory of the Panton family, none of which, however, seem to require any particular description.

At a small distance from this village is an elegant house, called Batheaston villa. It was built by the late Sir John Millar, Bart. a gentleman well known for certain poetical effusions addressed to his wife.*

In the Historical and Descriptive Account of Bath there is an account of a singular custom which formerly obtained at this house: it is thus related in that work: Mr. and Mrs. afterwards Sir John and Lady Mary, Miller, had purchased in Italy an antique vase, which had been dug up at Frescati, in the year 1759. This was brought home, and placed in their villa at Batheaston, which was now converted into the temple of Apollo; Mrs. Miller was made the high priestess, and the vase the shrine of the deity. A general invitation was then issued to all the sons and daughters of fashion in the neighbouring city, "the mob of gentlemen who wrote with ease," and the still more numerous mob, who *fancied* they could write, to a weekly *dies festus*, to be held every *Friday* (in the first instance, and afterwards Thursday) at Batheaston villa. Here the company were ushered into a room, where they found the old Etruscan vase placed upon a modern altar, and decorated with sprigs of laurel; and as each gentleman or lady passed the venerable relic, an offering was made of some original composition in verse; at first, merely of what

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* For a description of this lady's monument in Bath abbey church, vide ante, p. 381.

the French term *bouts rimés*, or rhyming terminations, which had been filled up by the candidate for poetical fame; but afterwards, of short performances on particular subjects, given out the preceding week. The assembly having all contributed their *morceaux*, Mr. Miller selected a lady from the circle, who, dipping her fair hand into the vase, drew the papers out, *par hazard*, as they occurred, and gave them to a gentleman to read aloud. This process being concluded, a select committee were named to determine upon the merits of the pieces, and adjudge the prizes; these retired into an adjoining room, and fixed upon the four best productions—the blushing authors of which, when they had identified their property by naming their private signatures, were presented by the high-priestess, Mrs. Miller, with a fillet of myrtle, and crowned amidst the plaudits of the company. The most sensible feature of the gala, a genteel collation, concluded the business. This Attic pastime continued for several years; till the wicked wit of an unknown wag having contaminated the purity of the urn by some licentious and satirical compositions, to the extreme horror of the ladies assembled to hear the productions recited, and the equal chagrin of the host and hostess, who expected the usual weekly tribute of adulatory compliment; the sacred vessel was thenceforth closed, and the meetings were discontinued for ever. Two small volumes of these effusions have been given to the world.

On the north-west side of the village rises *Salisbury Hill*. It is nearly six hundred feet from the river, with an entrenchment of an almost circular shape, supposed to have been thrown up by the Saxons during the siege of Bath, in the year 577.*

In the great road to London, through the Devizes, and about three miles westward from the city of Bath, is the parish of *Bathford*. The town is uncommonly pleasantly situated; to the right the “soft flowing Avon” meanders through rich meadows,

* Collinson's History, I. p. 99. Gough's Additions to Camden, I. 120.

meadows, while the "belt of hills defend the happy vale of Bath from the storms of the south and east."* It derived its name from its having a ford across the river. Near this place rise, in majestic grandeur, a richly-clothed eminence, called *Hampton Cliffs* and *Hampton Down*. That part of the hill called the Cliffs, is upwards of six hundred feet above the level of the river. It rises in an almost perpendicular direction, and is, therefore, nearly inaccessible. The view from this spot is unusually enchanting and picturesque.

At the time of the dissolution, the manor of Bathford belonged to Bath abbey. It is now the property of Mr. Skrine, whose pleasing Account of rivers we have often had occasion to quote. In the hamlet of *Shockerwick*, in this parish, stands the elegant mansion of Walter Wiltshire, Esq. It is built entirely of the Bath stone. The hamlet itself is very small, containing not more than eight or ten houses; yet it gave name to a family of some note as early as the reign of Henry the Second. In 1165, Adam de Socherwicke is certified to hold part of a knight's fee of the Bishop of Bath. When this name became extinct, the hamlet devolved to the family of Hussy. An old building, the remains of which tradition asserts to have been part of the parish church, was the work of one of this family.†

In the year 1691, was found, at the village of Bathford, a Roman hypocaust, the pillars meeting in arches, and the floor Mosaic. About the same time were also found two Roman altars, and an urn filled with coins. The hypocaust has been described by Mr. Vertue, in a letter to the Society of Antiquaries, dated August 30, 1739. At *Warley*, the seat of Mr. Skrine, was found the capital of a Roman pillar of very curious workmanship, of which an etching was made by Sir H. C. Englefield.‡ On *Hampton Down*, already mentioned,
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* Warner's Excursions from Bath, 194.

† Collinson, I. 112.

‡ Collinson, I. 111. Gough's Camden, I. 118.

is a Roman tumulus, and vestiges of a camp; and in the vicar's garden was found a coin of the emperor Allectus.

Proceeding in a southerly direction, a few miles from Bathford, is the parish of *Widcombe*, formerly belonging to the priors of Bath. In this parish is *Prior Park*, the mansion of Ralph Allen, Esq. It was finished about 1743. It is a stately and superb building, standing on a terrace, about one hundred feet below the summit of *Combe Down*, and four hundred feet above the city of Bath. It is built of Bath stone, and consists of a front nearly one hundred and fifty feet in length, with two pavilions, and two wings of offices, united to the centre by arcades; altogether forming a continued line of building of nearly one thousand three hundred feet in front.* The style is Corinthian, raised on a rustic basement, and surmounted by a balustrade. From the plane of the centre part an extremely grand portico projects, supported by six large and elegant columns. But all the majesty of the building is without. Within, every thing is little, dark, and inconvenient; and seldom has so much money been so injudiciously applied, as the enormous sum expended in the comfortless *palace* of Prior Park. Fielding, who laid the scene of the early years of Tom Jones at this place, has given a picture of the beautiful situation of Mr. Allen's house, the *Allworthy* of his novel. Making allowances for the fancy of an author, in an imaginary river, sea, distant island, and ruined abbey, the description is tolerably correct, at least many of its most agreeable features are real. "The house stood," says Fielding, "on the south-east side of a hill, but nearer the bottom than the top of it, so as to be sheltered from the north-east by a grove of old oaks, which rose above it in a gradual ascent of near half a mile, and yet high enough to enjoy a most charming prospect of the valley beneath.

"In the midst of the grove was a fine lawn, sloping down towards the house, near the summit of which rose a plentiful spring,

* Collinson, ubi supra.

spring, gushing out of a rock covered with firs, and forming a constant cascade of about thirty feet, not carried down a regular flight of steps, but tumbling in a natural fall over the broken and mossy stones, till it came to the bottom of the rock; then running off in a pebbly channel, that with many lesser falls winded along, till it fell into a lake at the foot of a hill, about a quarter of a mile below the house on the south side, and which was seen from every room in the front. Out of this lake, which filled the centre of a beautiful plain, embellished with groupes of beeches and elms, and fed with sheep, issued a river, that for several miles was seen to meander through an amazing variety of meadows and woods, till it emptied itself into the sea; with a large arm of which, and an island beyond it, the prospect was closed. On the right of this valley opened another of less extent, adorned with several villages, and terminated by one of the towers of an old ruined abbey, grown over with ivy, and part of the front, which remained still entire. The left-hand scene presented the view of a fine park, composed of very unequal ground, and agreeably varied with all the diversity that hills, lawns, wood, and water, laid out with admirable taste, but owing less to art than to nature, could give. Beyond this the country gradually rose into a ridge of wild mountains, the tops of which were above the clouds.*"

The chief circumstances which Fielding has omitted in his enumeration of the particulars of the prospect, are the splendid Palladian bridge at the bottom of the pleasure-grounds, and the more distant view of Bath; the latter of which, before the recent addition to the town, must have been strikingly beautiful. Sprung from humble parents in Cornwall, Mr. Allen† inherited little

* Mrs. Barbauld's *British Novelist*, Vol. XIX. pp. 17, 18.

† On the tablet of a triangular building of freestone in the park, cut of which springs a round tower, is the following laudatory inscription to the memory of Mr. Allen:—

“*Memoriæ optimi viri, RADULPHI ALLEN, positum.*

Qui virtutem veram simplicemque colis, venerare hoc saxum.”

little from his ancestors, except a decent education ; but nature had given him a clear head, deep penetration, and an excellent heart. With these possessions he came to Bath, early in the eighteenth century, when he had the good fortune to attract the regards of the daughter of Field-Marshal Wade. This was the first dawning of Mr. Allen's prosperity ; the young people were soon married, and the bridge-groom introduced by his father-in-law (who was for several sessions member for the city) into the corporation. Through the same interest he secured the farming of the cross-posts throughout the kingdom, a speculation by which he cleared, for several years, nearly twenty thousand pounds per annum ; though the real source of his rapidly-increasing fortune was carefully concealed from the world, under the pretended one of the immense quarries which he worked on *Combe-Down* ; from whence a *rail-road* was ingeniously contrived, to amuse the public with something *new*, and prevent their attention from dwelling upon the profits of his concern. Steadily pursuing the cultivation of his interests in Bath, he at length acquired the complete controul of the city, insomuch as to give occasion to the publication of a ludicrous caricature, called the *One-headed Corporation* ; wherein, amid an assembly of figures, (intended for the mayor, aldermen, and common-council-men, and marked by the appropriate emblems of apothecaries, booksellers, &c.) a single monstrous head is discovered, to which all the others are doing obeisance. As Mr. Allen's object, however, was to *use* the corporation, and not to *serve* them, he carefully and wisely avoided becoming their representative, and contented himself with *pointing out to them* whom they should chuse for that purpose. This reign of influence continued many years ; during which time Prior Park was the resort of the wits and literati of the age. Amidst this constellation of genuisses, Pope shone the distinguished star : he had become intimate with Allen from the personal advances of the latter, in consequence of an esteem he had conceived for him reading the supposed surreptitious edition of his letters in 1734.

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But the *friendship* of a *wit* is not to be depended upon. Pope, who visited much at Prior Park, and found the house so comfortable as to be desirous of being there more, requested Mr. Allen to grant him the mansion at Bath-Hampton, in order that he might bring Martha Blount thither (with whom Pope's connection was thought to be somewhat equivocal) during the time of his own residence at Prior-Park. This request Allen flatly refused; which so exasperated the poet, that he quit-
ted his house in disgust, and never afterwards expressed himself in terms of common civility with respect to his old host and former friend*. Nay, urged by the malice of Mrs. Blount, he meanly and wickedly carried his resentment beyond the grave, and inserted in his will an order to his executors to pay Mr. Allen the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds, being the amount (as he apprehended) of the charges Mr. Allen might have been at in entertaining him at Prior-Park; adding, that if Mr. Allen would not receive the money, he hoped he would at least order it to be paid into the fund of the Bath Hospital. Allen was too wise and too good a man to feel resentment at this contemptible instance of impotent revenge; and when complying with the latter part of the deceased poet's wish, and ordering the money to be applied to the charity, he, with a smile, observed, that "when Mr. Pope was expressing the *sum of obligation*, he certainly had forgotten to add one more cypher to it." Previously, however, to Pope's disgust at Allen, he had introduced Warburton to him, and by that means laid the foundation of that prelate's future fortune. This, indeed, was but a fair return for the assistance which the divine had

* This account, which is given partly on the authority of the Historical Account of Bath, is not correct. Pope kept up his friendship with Mr. Allen to the last, as appears by his letters; and Mrs. Blount remained in Mr. Allen's house some time after the coolness took place between her and Mrs. Allen. Allen's conversation with Pope on this subject, and his letters to Mrs. Blount, all whose quarrels he was obliged to share, appear in Mr. Bowles's edition of Pope's Works.—See a Note (c), Vol. XII. p. 96, of Chalmers's edition of the British Poets.

had conferred upon the poet; for when Crousaz attacked the "Essay on Man," and accused its writer of favouring fatalism, and rejecting revelation, Warburton voluntarily became the champion of the work; and in the literary journal of that time, called "the Republic of Letters," published a series of essays in vindication of it, which were afterwards melted into an exposition, and given to the world in the Bishop of Gloucester's edition of Pope's works. This service Pope never forgot; and repaid it first by recommending Warburton to Mr. Murray, by whose interest he became preacher at Lincoln's Inn; and afterwards to Mr. Allen, who gave him his niece in marriage, procured him a mitre, and at length left him an entailed estate in Prior Park.*

In the immediate neighbourhood of this village, is *Lands-down hill*, already mentioned, as rendered famous in history by the battle fought there in the year 1643, between the royal army under the Marquis of Hertford and Prince Maurice, and the parliamentary forces commanded by Sir William Waller. This action was warmly contested for several hours, but victory at last declared in favour of the king's troops. Of the king's horse, which came into the field two thousand strong, only six hundred were left alive. The number of gentlemen killed in this engagement, far exceeded that of the private soldiers. Among them was Sir Bevil Grenville, a gentleman of great interest and reputation, both in public and in private life; to whose conduct the success of the royal party, in Cornwall, was chiefly owing. A most superb monument of free-stone was erected to his memory on the north declivity of the hill, near the spot on which he fell. The south tablet of this monument contains an eulogium by Lord Clarendon, inserted in his History of the Rebellion. The west is adorned with warlike trophies, and the east with the royal arms of England, and those of Grenville. The Grenville crest surmounts the whole. On the

* Johnson's Life of Pope.

the north are the following lines, written by William Cartwright in the year 1643 :

“ When now the incens'd rebels proudly came
Down like a torrent, without bark or dam ;
When undeserv'd success urg'd on their force,
That thunder must come down to stop their course,
Or Grenville must step in ; then Grenville stood,
And with himself oppos'd, and check'd the flood.
Conquest, or death ! was all his thought, so fire
Either o'ercomes, or does itself expire.
His courage work'd like flames, cast heat about,
Here, there, on this, on that side, none gave out.
Not any pike in that renowned stand,
But took new force from his inspiring hand ;
Soldier encourag'd soldier, man urg'd man,
And he urg'd all ; so far example can.
Hurt upon hurt, wound upon wound did fall,
He was the butt, the mark, the aim of all.
His soul this while retired from cell to cell,
At last flew up from all, and then he fell ;
But the devoted stand, enrag'd the more
From that his fate, plied hotter than before.
And, proud to fall with him, swore not to yield.
Each sought an honour'd grave and gain'd the field.
Thus, he being fallen, his actions fought anew,
And the dead conquer'd whilst the living flew.”

William Cartwright.

These lines follow on the same side, the composition of Martin Llewellyn.

“ Thus slain, thy valiant ancestor did lie,
When his own bark a navy did defy.
When now encompass'd round, the victor stood,
And bath'd his pinnace in his conqu'ring blood,
Till all his purple current, dried and spent,
He fell, and made the waves his monument ;
Where shall the next famed Grenville's ashes stand ?
Thy grandsire * fills the seas, and thou the land.”

Martin Llewellyn.

“ To

* Sir Richard Grenville.

“To the immortal memory of his renowned and valiant Cornish friends, who conquered, dying in the royal cause, July 5, 1643, this column was dedicated, by the Honourable George Grenville, Lord Landsdowne, 1720.—*Dulce est pro patria mori.*”

This monument stands within a square of twenty one feet, and near it are remains, as is supposed, of a Saxon fortification. At a little distance from it, may be seen some vestiges of the intrenchments thrown up by Waller's army. And a short way to the east is the spot where the king's forces encamped previous to the battle.

The herbage, on Landsdowne, is accounted the most delicate for fattening sheep in the west of England; and the number fed here is much greater than on any of the adjacent hills. The view from this hill is very delightful, and, perhaps, more extensive than any other in England. From a small plantation of wood to the south of the monument, called *North Stoke Brow*, the Cities of Bath and Bristol, with the river Avon in all its windings, can be distinctly seen. The junction of that river with the Severn is very conspicuous, as are also the Monmouthshire hills. The Blrench and Sugar-Loaf mountains, though distant about forty miles in a direct line from Landsdowne, are distinctly visible. In the evening, when the sun is declining behind the Welsh mountains, nothing can be more enchanting than this view. Those points in the prospect which, under the glare of the mid-day sun, seem less picturesque, are then softened by the evening tints and mellowed into harmony.

Claverton, a parish, about three miles east from Bath, is delightfully situated on the banks of the Avon. It is supposed to have, anciently, belonged to some wealthy Saxon, and was then called *Clafertone*. In the time of William the Conqueror it belonged to Hugoline, the king's interpreter, who also held the manors of *Easton* and *Warley*. After the Conquest, it reverted to the crown, and was granted to a person of the name of Hugo *cum barba*, who sold it to John de Villula, bishop of Wells. This whimsical

whimsical bishop gave the manor of Claverton to the Abbey of St. Peter;* but, in consequence of a dispute, it was soon wrested from the abbey, and annexed to the bishoprick for ever. In 1256, bishop Burton obtained a charter of the king, of free warren in all his lands in this parish;† and, soon afterwards, a grant was procured, that the village of Claverton, with that of Hampton, should be exempt from the jurisdiction of the hundred, and be made an independent liberty. The manor house was built by Ralph de Salopia, bishop of Bath and Wells;‡ and it continued to belong to this see till the year 1548, when bishop Barlow exchanged it with the king for other lands in this county. In, or about, the year 1625, the present manor-house was built. After having been the property of numerous families of note, it was bequeathed by Mr. Allen to his niece, the lady of bishop Warburton, who, on the death of the bishop, married the reverend Martin Smith, B.D. to whom, of course, the manor devolved. This house is a fine specimen of the architecture of king James the First's reign. It adjoins the church, and has an ascent of thirty steps.

The church is a small Gothic building, consisting of a nave, chancel, north aisle, porch, and belfry; in length, sixty-four feet; and, in width, thirty-two feet. At the west end is a plain tower, thirty feet high, containing three bells. The funeral monuments are neither very numerous nor very handsome; but this place deserves celebrity from the living having been the rectory of the late excellent and ingenious Richard Graves, M. A. who purchased the advowson from the trustees of Mr. Allen.

Mr. Graves was the son of Richard Graves, of Mickleton, Gloucester, Esq. a gentleman of considerable learning, and a profound antiquary. His son, the subject of this memoir, was born at his father's seat on the fourth of May, 1715, and received the rudiments of his education under the care of the reverend Mr. Smith, who, it is said, made his pupil read He-

* Dugdale's *Monasticon Anglicanum*, I. 186.

† Cart. 41 Henry the Third, m. 5.

‡ Leland's *Itinerary*, III, 125.

siod and Homer in his twelfth year. About the age of thirteen he was removed to the school of Abingdon, in Berkshire; the reputation of which, at that time, stood very high. At the age of sixteen, he was chosen scholar of Pembroke college, Oxford, where he was soon distinguished for uncommon proficiency.

Such was his eagerness for classical knowledge, that he had not been long at Oxford before he joined a small party of young men, who assembled in the evenings to read Epictetus, Theophrastus, and such Greek authors as were not, at that time, recommended in the common course of study; and it is much to the credit of this party, that their only beverage at these meetings was water. It was about this time that he became acquainted with Shenstone the poet; and their intimacy, which continued till the death of the latter, was frequently renewed by epistolary correspondence, part of which has been published. There does not appear to have been a perfect coincidence of sentiment between them in matters of taste; but, in general, there was a congeniality, and a harmony of opinion and friendship, which added not inconsiderably to the happiness of both.

In 1736, Mr. Graves having left Pembroke, was elected a fellow of All Souls; but, instead of pursuing theological studies, as he first intended, he was led to the study of physic, and attended two courses of anatomical lectures in London. From this, however, he was diverted by a long and dangerous illness, which left him in a very languid state; and, on his recovery, he resumed his original intention, and was admitted to holy orders in 1740, at which time also he took his master's degree.

Some time after he went to reside with Mr. Fitzherbert, at Tisington, in Derbyshire, who had a donative in his gift, and was desirous of the company of a clergyman. In this house, Mr. Graves enjoyed the advantage of elegant society for nearly three years. While making a tour in the north, he accidentally met with a relation at Scarborough, Dr. Samuel Knight, archdeacon of Berkshire, by whose recommendation he obtained a curacy near
Oxford;

Oxford; which, at this time, became necessary, as he had come into office in his college, and was obliged to reside within a convenient distance. For this purpose he lodged with a gentleman farmer in the neighbourhood, whose youngest daughter, a very amiable young lady, so far captivated him, that he resigned his fellowship and married her.

About the year 1750, he was presented by Mr. Skrine to the rectory of Claverton, on which he resided very constantly during the whole of his life; and filled up his time, as well as improved his circumstances, by taking a few pupils to be educated with his children. In 1763 he was presented to the living of Kilmersdon, through the interest of his steady friend Ralph Allen, of Prior Park, Esq. who likewise procured him a scarf from Lady Chatham.

Although Mr. Graves frequently employed his pen on light and gay subjects, he did not commence author until the year 1765, when he published *The Festoon*, a collection of Epigrams, chosen with great judgment, and prefaced by a valuable critical essay on that species of composition, for which he received a silver medal, offered by the proprietors of a periodical work for the best essay on that subject. The success of *The Festoon* was, however, not great; although, perhaps, as much as he expected. It was followed, at short intervals, by *Lucubrations in Prose and Rhime*; *The Spiritual Quixote*; *A Treatise on Politeness*, translated from the Italian of De la Casa, archbishop of Benevento; *Columella, or the Distressed Anchorite*; *Euphrosyne*, consisting of poetical pieces; *Eugenius, or Anecdotes of the Golden Vale*; *Recollections of some Particulars in the Life of Mr. Shenstone*; *Plexippus, or the Aspiring Plebeian*; *The Rout-Fleurettes*, a translation of Archbishop Fenelon's Ode on Solitude, &c.; *The Life of Commodus*, from the Greek of Herodian; *Hiero, on the Condition of Royalty*, from Xenophon; *The Meditations of Antoninus*, from the Greek; *The Reveries of Solitude*; *The Coalition, or Rehearsal of the Pastoral Opera of Echo and Narcissus*; *Sermons on various Subjects*;

jects; *The Farmer's Son*, as a counterpart to *Mr. Anstey's Farmer's Daughter*; *The Invalid*, with the obvious Means of enjoying Long Life, by a Nonagenarian; and *Senilities*.

The merit of these compositions is various; but the general character of all Mr. Graves's works resolves itself into benevolence, instruction, and harmless amusement. He was himself the amiable character he frequently portrays; and, by habits of cheerfulness and temperance, prolonged his life free from blame and care, until his ninetieth year, when he expired after a very short illness.

Of the works now enumerated, the *Spiritual Quixote* has been by far the most popular. Independent of the design, which, at the time of publication, was an object of some importance, the execution of it made it soon be ranked among those productions which are chiefly admired for ingenuity of fiction. By occasionally introducing real characters and authenticated narratives, he has also diffused a charm over the whole, by which curiosity is excited and gratified in the most pleasing manner.*

In paying this tribute to the ingenuity and virtue of Mr. Graves, it is by no means our wish to give our sanction to every thing contained in the *Spiritual Quixote*; nor, indeed, to the general satire on the characters and motives of the religious denomination so strongly ridiculed in that work; to say nothing of the indecorum in using the holy Scriptures, and even the sacred name of the Deity, as the vehicles of humour. That there were some spiritual knights errant at the time Mr. Graves wrote there can be no doubt; and that there are adventurers of a similar description at the present day, can hardly be questioned; but, that a whole body of people, among which are to be found characters of the highest respectability and worth, should be thus publicly censured for the irregularities of a few, is neither honest

* See Mrs. Barbauld's *Life of Graves*, prefixed to the *Spiritual Quixote*, Vol. XXXII. of the *British Novelists*; also *Public Characters*, Vol. II. 1799—1800.

honest nor just. And it should not be overlooked, that many of the instances of religious eccentricity and enthusiasm, which are from time to time adduced against the Methodists, are not justly attributable to the societies formed by the late Messrs. Wesley and Whitfield, but take place among the numerous minor sectaries which have deserted the parent society, or the founders of which have been expelled for their irregularities, or their errors.

KELWESTON, anciently written Kelveston, and pronounced Kelston, is a small parish, situate in the upper turnpike road from Bath to Bristol, by the way of Kingswood. The scenery in this parish is as pleasing and as beautiful as can well be conceived. The road, cut along a gentle waving terrace, and intersecting, by means of a small bridge, the meandering Avon, is uncommonly pleasant, and commands, on both sides, a very rich prospect. On the left is a vale, edged by the villages of *Newton*, *Twiverton*, and *Corston*, with a high range of cultivated hills behind them. In the eastern part of this parish is the fine eminence called *Henstridge Hill*, or *Helston Round Hill*, which rises to a vast height above the bed of the river. Its summit is crowned with a range of firs, surrounded with a circular wall. The prospect from this hill is pleasing and extensive. The old manor-house of Kelweston was built in the year 1587, by Sir John Harrington, Bart. after a design of Barozzio, of Vignola, an Italian architect of the sixteenth century, and author of a *Treatise on the Five Orders of Architecture*, in three volumes, quarto.* Of this building the court yard only remains. There is no account of this parish in the Norman Record; but it appears that in the year 1293, it formed part of the possessions of the great abbey of Shaftesbury, in Dorsetshire; and that in the same year Mabel, or Matilda, Gifford, abbess of that monastery, procured a charter from Edward the First, of free warren in all her lands here,† and

F f 3

received

* D'Argenville's *Lives of Painters*.

† Cart. 22 Edward the First.

received from the manor a yearly pension of thirty marks.* After the dissolution, in the last year of Henry the Eighth's reign, this manor, with those of *Batheaston* and *Katharine*, and the capital messuage called *Katherine's Court*, was granted to John Malte and Etheldred Malte, the king's natural daughter, by Joanna Dyngley, or Dobson. Etheldred shortly afterwards married John Harrington, Esq. a confidential servant of the king's, who thus obtained the estates, and they remained in the possession of the descendants of this family till of late years, when they were sold to Cæsar Hawkins, Esq. created a baronet July twenty-five, 1776.†

Of this family of Harrington there are two eminent branches; the one possessing large estates in Rutlandshire and Lincolnshire; the other, being the descendants of John Harrington, Esq. just mentioned, from whom issued the Somersetshire-line. From the first branch descended James Harrington, author of "*The Commonwealth of Oceana*," printed in London, in 1659, folio,‡ a political romance, on the principles of which the author is said to have formed a society. The present Sir James Harrington is also of the Rutland-line.§

Sir John Harrington, of Kelweston, is principally known as translator of the celebrated *Orlando Furioso*, of Ludovico Ariosto, which he published before he had attained his thirtieth year. He was born about the year 1561, at the family seat in Kelston, and had for his godmother no less a personage than

* Dr. Archer's Account of Religious Houses; Walter de Hemmingford's Chron. p. 637.

† Collinson, I. 123.

‡ See *Beauties*, &c. Vol. XI. p. 155. Of Harrington's *Oceana*, Hume, whose prejudices never inclined him to the side of republicanism, observes, that it was well adapted to the age in which it was written, and that even in our own time it is justly admired as a work of genius and invention. He adds, the style wants ease and fluency; but the good matter which the work contains makes compensation. Hist. of Eng. VII. 347. 8vo. ed.

§ See Dugdale's *Baronetage*, and Wright's *Rutlandshire*.

than Queen Elizabeth, who did his parents this honour from motives of gratitude for the services they had rendered her before she ascended the throne, and during her confinement in the reign of Mary. He was educated at Eton, and afterwards entered at Cambridge, under the tuition of Bishop Still, whose attention made so deep an impression upon him, that the remembrance of it never faded from his mind; and he himself says, that he never went to him but he grew more religious, and never parted with him but with additional instruction. Under so admirable a tutor, and with the advantages of great natural talents, Harrington soon became conspicuous for his literature and wit; qualifications that increased the regard which Elizabeth already entertained for her god-son. He now went to court, where he quickly rendered himself remarkable, not only by his good-natured satire and sprightly epigrams, but also by a translation of the tale of Alcina and Rogero, from Orlando Furioso. This performance circulating amongst the ladies of the bed-chamber, at length reached the eye of the virgin queen, who, feigning herself offended at the licentiousness of the story, imposed upon Harrington the translation of the *whole* poem, as an expiation of the crime against offended modesty. To work, therefore, he went, and produced Ariosto in English, to the great satisfaction of the queen, who received him again into favour, and permitted his return to court, from whence he had been banished till the translation should be completed. But the satirical propensity of Harrington could not be overcome by this slight check; and in the year 1596, another sprightly effusion had nearly implicated him in still more unpleasant circumstances than his former inadvertence; it was called the *Metamorphosis of Ajax*, and was occasioned by the erection of a newly-invented water-closet in his house at Kelweston. The fertility of genius, and the depth of reading, displayed in this little tract, ought to have screened our author from indignation; but as it contained, at the same time, many satirical allusions to the personages of the court, and

some sly insinuations levelled against the queen herself, an universal cry of vengeance was excited against Harrington; and nothing but the great partiality of Elizabeth for him, and her gratitude for the fidelity of his parents, saved him from the horrors of the Star Chamber. Tired at length with the folly and hypocrisy of a court life, he seated himself quietly at Kelweston, enlivening the country around with his hospitality and wit. To sprightly characters allowances are generally given for slight deviations from the common forms of decorum, the manner in which they are made generally compensating for their singularity. Several anecdotes are related, in which he seems to have availed himself of this supposed privilege. Some almost incredible stories are likewise told concerning the sagacity of his dog, *Bungay*.*

In 1599 Harrington was made a knight-banneret in the field, by Essex, lord-lieutenant of Ireland, for the valour he displayed in that country. The disgust which the queen conceived both against him and Essex on account of this honour being conferred without her privity, induced him probably to withdraw from court, and retire to Kelweston. Here he flattered himself he could pass his remaining days in the pursuits of philosophy, and the calm pleasure of rational occupation; but he had mistaken the petulance of pique for a change of disposition; and no sooner did James accede to the throne, than all his accustomed propensities returned; he again languished for courtly parade, and determined to ingratiate himself with the new monarch; which, from the following original letters preserved by Dr. Harrington, it seems, he soon effected:

*“ To the Honorable Knyt. my trustie freind S^r John Harrington,
by Bathe.*

*“ Honor^{bl} Sr.—I resaived your letter sent by this gentillman,
who delivered to his Mat^y y^t was committed to him. All you
sent*

* See Hist. Account, &c.

sent to Mr. Hunter, yo^r assured and constant friend, is sa weill accepted of his Ma^{tie}, that I do not dout but in the anon tyme ye will fynde more in effect nor I can expresse by papeir. And althought for the I doe not advertyse particularly, yet must I intreat your favourable censure as one that shall ever love you, and do his best for the accomplishment of your desair. In short time I hope to see qⁿ q^r and I am not certaine; but then shall yow know more of our maister's love to yo^rself, and of my devotion to doe yow service, y^u shall constantly remayne,

“Yo^r assured friend,

“F. ARESKYNE.”

“*To the Honorable Kny^t. my loving nybour, Sir John Harington, by Bailhe.*

“Sr.—Yo^{rs} by Mr. Nicholas Stringer, dated at Westwood, the 27th of Marche, I raissaived at Court, at Hallyruid-house, the 2^d of Aprill. I fynde yourself and the spinning gentilwoman haith been oft skard, but now, God be prayسد, past daunger. His Majestye and his trayne are to marche forward on their journeye toward London on the 5th of Aprill. His Majestye excepted your Embleme Lanterne and letters now last exceiding kyndly, as yourself shall sey at meeting. I doubt not but your expectation shall be satisfyed. Thus in haiste, haveing manie dispaitches in hand, as this bearer can beare witness, I rest, requeasting yow to make muche of the spinner, that she maie make muche of the carder, and convert your spinning and keyding in ryding. The kinde and courtesouse Kny^{te} will use your counselle at the parlement, it may be for bothe your benefitts. I committ yo^w to the Almightye.

“Y^r affected and avowed friend to do yo^w service,

WILL^m. HUNTER.”

“From the Court at Hallyruid-House,

“this 5th of Aprill, 1603.”

But the surest earnest of James's future favour was the following

ing letter to Sir John, under the king's own hand, written two days before the above.

“ To our trustie and wel-beloved Sir John Harrington, Knt.

“ R^t trustie and wel-beloved freind, we greet yow hairtily weill. We have raissavit your lanterne with the poesie ye send us be our servand William Hunter, geving yow hairtie thanks, as lyke-wayis for your last letter quharin we persaift the continuance of your loyal affection to us and your service. We shall not be unmyndefull to extende our princely favour heirafter to yow and your perticulers at all guid occasions. We committ yow to God.

“ JAMES R.”

*“ From our Court at Hallyruid-House,
the 3^d of April, 1603.”*

Sir John enjoyed a great portion of James's esteem, frequently corresponding with him, and going occasionally to court; though it does not appear that his majesty performed the promise of particular patronage made in his letter to the knight. He died at length, advanced in years, in 1612.. A miscellaneous collection of his works, in prose and verse, was published by the Rev. Henry Harrington, under the title of *Nugæ Antiquæ*. A new edition of this work has appeared, by Mr. Park. He wrote an addition to Bishop Godwin's Catalogue of the Bishops, in which he hath many tart reflections upon married bishops, which had been better spared. He was a true poet in all things but poverty; for he died wealthy, and left a fair estate to his son.*

One of the most singular honours conferred on Sir John, was the visit which his royal godmother paid to him at Kelweston, in the year 1591, where she was gratified with all the delicacies of the times; and, what was much more to the taste of Elizabeth, with a profusion of complimentary verses and poetical conceits, the productions of the pen of her witty host. It was upon this occasion that she made her godson a present of a splendid golden font,

* *Magna Britannia*, iv. 793-794.

font, which was preserved in the family till 1643, when being removed from Kelweston to Bristol, for greater security, it fell, with that city, into the hands of the parliament-forces, and was heard of no more. The old mansion suffered repeatedly during the civil wars, being alternately plundered by the royalists or parliamentarians, as often as their forces passed that way; but its venerable head still continued to brave the storms of fortune, and the changes and chances of human affairs, till modern taste laid its destructive hand upon the fabric, and in the rage of improvement levelled its turrets with the dust.*

The present manor-house was built by Sir Cæsar Hawkins, about forty years ago. It is an elegant structure, finely situated on a rising ground, a little south of the site of the old mansion, and commands a rich and variegated prospect.

FRESHFORD parish comprises the hamlets of *Sheston*, *Shrubs*, *Pipards*, *Park-Corner*, *Shitten-Lane*, and *Iford*. The last of which is mentioned in Domesday Book by the name of *Eford*. This hamlet, and that of *Shrubs*, *Freshford Mills* and *Bridge*, are all in the county of Wilts: the Avon being the boundary of these places. The living of Freshford, in the year 1448, was united with that of *Woodwick*, a parish contiguous to it; but now, with its church, extinct. Several ecclesiastical remains have been dug up in certain fields, called *Woodwards*, a corruption of *Woodwick*. The manor of Freshford, after the Conquest, was given to the Carthusian monastery of Hinton,† in which it continued till the dissolution, when it was granted to Anthony Stringer, for life. On his death it reverted to the crown, and was given, in 1556-7, to John Cheeke, Esq. for life. It afterwards came into the possession of John Davison, Esq. whose

* Historical Account, &c.

† Collinson, Vol. I. p. 125, says that "the Carthusian abbey of Hinton was founded in the year of our Lord 1332;" but, in Vol. III. p. 367, he says it was founded A. D. 1297; a chronological discrepancy of no inconsiderable magnitude.

whose family possessed the greatest part of the parish, till it was purchased by Anthony Methuen, Esq.; and it is now the property of Paul Cobb Methuen, of Corsham House, Wilts, Esq.* The church is a Gothic structure, dedicated to St. Peter; but has nothing worthy of notice in its architecture or monuments.

Hinton Charterhouse, the seat of Samuel J. Day, Esq. is situated about a quarter of a mile from the village of *Hinton*, five miles south of Bath, on the road to Salisbury. The mansion was built by John Harding, Esq. maternal great grandfather to the present possessor: it is an extensive free-stone building, of two fronts, the east front being ninety feet in length, and the south fifty-three. The hall is an elegant apartment, measuring thirty feet in length, twenty in breadth, and twenty-one in height: the breakfast, dinner, and with-drawing rooms, are of tolerably good proportions; yet, on the whole, the internal accommodations are not so good as the outward appearance of the house would seem to indicate. In this mansion are many excellent pictures, particularly, two three-quarter lengths of HENRY the EIGHTH and EDWARD the SIXTH, by Holbein; MARY, Queen of Scots, in a richly worked dress, by Zuchero; the LORD KEEPER GUILDFORD, and LORD STRAFFORD and his Secretary, by Vandyke; ARCHBISHOP ROBINSON, by Sir Joshua Reynolds, and the Right Hon. CHARLES JAMES FOX, by Abbot; besides some good family pictures, by Woodford and others. Here are also several fine *Landscapes*, by Vandermeer, K. Du Jardin, Everdingen, Van Meulen, Ward, Turner, and the Hon. Thomas Lister, brother-in-law to the proprietor. The grounds slope gently from the house on the east and north, admitting rich and extensive views of the vallies of Bradford, Trowbridge, and Devizes; and at the distance of half a mile is seen the

* The celebrated collection of pictures at the seat of this gentleman, in Corsham, has been pleasingly and accurately described, by our ingenious and indefatigable predecessor in this work, John Britton, Esq. F. S. A. See his "Historical Account of Corsham House," &c. 1806.

the time-worn Priory* of Hinton, rearing its ivy-clad tower amidst a grove of venerable oaks, a part of the old park formed by Ela de Longespée, Countess of Salisbury, in the year 1227. Near it are several large tumuli, and from the ruins have been dug up Roman tesserae, bricks, &c. On Mr. Day's estate, in the adjoining manor of Norton St. Philip's, the Duke of Monmouth defeated the royal forces under the command of Lord Faversham and the Duke of Grafton.†

About six miles south-east from Bath, and as many north from Frome, is the village of *Farley*, or *Farleigh*. It is said to have derived its name from the *fairness* of its *leys*, or meadows; and indeed it is seated in an uncommonly rich and beautiful tract. The road leading from Hinton is delightfully extended through an avenue of shady oaks and elms. But what gives most celebrity to this place are the remains of an ancient castle, and the ruins of an abbey. Leland‡ says, "Farley Castelle is sette on a rockky hill. There be diviers praty towers in the outer warde, and an antient chapel." He further adds, that "there is a common saying that one of the Hungerfords built part of the castle by the prey of the Duke of Orleans, whom he had taken prisoner." Nearly the whole of it is now destroyed; but when Mr. Buck drew it, in 1750, the great hall and part of the mansion were standing. The antiquity of this place is very great. It was for several years in the possession of the Saxon thanes; and in the eleventh century it came into the hands of a Norman lord, Sir Roger de Curcelle, a favourite with William the Conqueror. On the death of de Curcelle, it again reverted to the crown, and William Rufus granted it, with other possessions,

to

* This was a priory for Carthusian monks, and was dedicated to the honour of the blessed Virgin Mary, St. John Baptist, and All Saints, and endowed with the manors of Hinton and Norton, the advowson of the church of Hinton, and all the appurtenances thereunto belonging, except one virgate of land, which Richard the park-keeper formerly held. *Dug. Monast. Ang.* I. 960.

† See Fox's History of James the Second.

‡ It. Vol. II. pp. 32, 33.

to Hugh de Montfort; whence the place is often called *Farley-Montfort*. This lord, by virtue of his long beard, acquired the title of *cum barba* (or, with a beard, it being common at that time for his Norman countrymen to shave themselves); and this appellation his descendants retained for many generations. He was deemed an expert and valiant soldier; but, being slain in a duel with Walcheline de Ferres, a son, of his own name, took possession of his estates. It remained in this family till the year 1335, when Sir Henry de Montfort granted this, and other estates, to Bartholomew Lord Burghurst, or Burghersh,* a person famous in Edward the Second's ignoble wars with the Scots. The son of this lord did not long retain either this or other parts of his paternal inheritance; his imprudence compelling him to dispose of them, which he did to Thomas Lord Hungerford, about the time of Richard the Second. Walter, father of Sir Thomas, fortified and improved the castle.† It remained in this family many generations, except for a short interval, during which time it was confiscated to the crown, its possessor having been beheaded, when it was given to the Duke of Gloucester, on whose accession to the throne it was granted to John Howard, Duke of Norfolk, at whose death it returned to the Hungerfords. At length it devolved to Sir Edward Hungerford, the famous spendthrift,‡ who disposed of it to the family of Baynton, in the year 1686, and not long after it came into the possession of the Houlton family, who still hold it. The estate consists of two manors, within a ring fence, and comprises a park,

* Not Bingham, as written by Mr. Warner, who gives 1337 as the date of this grant. See his interesting and pleasing "Walk through some of the Western Counties of England," p. 27.

† Dugdale Mon. Ang. II. p. 203.

‡ This gentleman, who sat thirty-three years in parliament, sold, at the same time, twenty-eight manors, and, with an income of 30,000*l.* per annum, lived to the age of one hundred and fifteen; supported by charity, and even begging, the last thirty years of his life. See note *n*, in p. 110. Vol. I. of Gough's Camden.

park, close to the old family seat, stocked with deer, well wooded, and agreeably varied with hills and dales.

The chapel of the castle, which was dedicated to St. Leonard, is nearly perfect. The performance of divine service in it has been omitted for many years, but by the laudable attention of the present owner, the fabric is in good repair, and the curious monuments within it are in tolerable preservation. This building consists of a nave, fifty-six feet in length, and twenty in breadth, and a chantry on the north side, twenty feet in length, and fourteen in breadth, erected and endowed by Sir Walter Hungerford; in the former is an old wooden pulpit, a large slab of pudding-stone, which forms the altar, and some pieces of ancient armour, rude remains of the age of chivalry. A flat gravestone also is seen on the floor, cut with the figure of a monk, and an imperfect inscription running round its edges, commemorating Sir Giles Hungerford. Attached to the south wall, is a table monument of free-stone, with this inscription:

“ Tyme tryeth truth, quod (quoth) Walter Hungerford, knyght, who lyeth here, and Edward hys son, to God’s mercy in whom he trusts for ever. An^o. Dⁱ. 1585, the vi of Desbr.”

But the side chapel contains the rarest curiosities of this fabric. Under its arch stands an old table tomb, highly sculptured on the sides and ends, with coats of arms, knights, and a woman, in niches; the full-sized representations of a knight and his lady are recumbent upon the top, the former cased in armour, with a lion at his feet; the latter in the dress of the times, her head resting on two cushions supported by angels, and two dogs at the other extremity: the effigies of Sir Thomas Hungerford, who died December the third, 1508, and Johanna, his wife, who followed him in 1512. Connected with the north wall, is another tomb of the same kind, built of free-stone, gorgeously painted and gilt. It bears this inscription on the top:

“ Edward

“ Edward Hungerford, knight, sonne to Walter Lord Hungerford, and late heir to Sir Walter Hungerford, deceased, the 5 daie of December, 1607, and lieth here with Dame Jane his wife, daughter to Sir Anthony Hungerford, of Downe-Amny.”

A third monument occurs on the west side of the chapel without any inscription, so that we cannot tell for whom it was erected. It should seem, however, to be the burial place of some pious and prolific dame, as there are the effigies of an old lady kneeling at a desk, accompanied by four sons and two daughters, all in the same devout posture. Another small mural slab is seen against the north wall, in which a brass plate contains the following lines :

“ If birth or worth might ad to rareness life,
Or teares in man revive a virtuous wife ;
Lock't in this cabinet, bereav'd of breath,
Here lies the pearle inclosed—she which by death
Sterne death subdu'd, slighting vain worldly vice,
Achiving Heav'n with thoughts of Paradise.
She was her sexes wonder, great in bloud,
But what is far more rare, both great and good.
She was with all celestial virtues stor'd,
The life of Shaa, and soul of Hungerford.”

AN EPITAPH,

“ Written in memory of the late Right Noble and most truly virtuous Mrs. Mary Shaa, daughter to the Right Hon. Walter Lord Hungerford, sister and heyre generall to the Right Noble Sir Edward Hungerford, Knight, deceased, and wife unto Thomas Shaa, Esq.: leaving behind Robert Shaa, her only sonne. She departed this life, in the faith of Christ, the last day of September, An^o. Dnⁱ. 1613.”

But these costly specimens of ancient sepulchral masonry, are entirely eclipsed by the magnificent monument which stands in the centre of the chapel, and is, perhaps, one of the fines *morsels*

sels of the kind in England. It is composed of white polished marble, with black slabs placed on steps of black marble, and supporting the effigies of Sir Edward and lady Margaret Hungerford; the one in complete armour, his feet resting on a wheat-sheaf, (the family crest) the other in a loose dress, with a lion and anchor at her feet. The workmanship, as well as materials, are most choice; the name of the sculptor does not appear, but as it was constructed at a time when the nobility went to an immense expence in these last mementos of their grandeur, it was probably the work of the first artist of the day. A long Latin inscription is cut on the south side of the monument, which is otherwise enriched with a profusion of quarterings. The date is 1648. A painting of the Resurrection covers the ceiling, and beneath it appear the representations of the two Saints James, St. John, St. Philip, St. Matthew, St. Thomas, and St. Bartholomew. The crypt, or vault, under this chapel, exhibits a very extraordinary family party, the pickled remains of eight of the Hungerfords, ranged by the side of each other, cased in leaden coffins, and assuming the forms of Egyptian mummies, the faces prominent, the shoulders swelling out into their natural shape, and the body gradually tapering towards the feet. The first of these, on the right, contains the remains of Sir Thomas Hungerford; second, those of his wife; third, the first wife of Sir Edward Hungerford, jun.; fourth, Sir Edward Hungerford himself; fifth, the second wife of Sir Edward Hungerford; sixth, (in the left hand corner) Mary Hungerford, who married Thomas Shaa, Esq.; and whose monument is in the chapel above. The two children inclosed in lead, and lying on the breasts of the larger coffins, are the offspring of two of the wives of Sir Edward Hungerford (for he had three in all) who both died in childbed. One of the full-sized leaden coffins has a perforation on the right shoulder, through which a stick may be introduced, and the embalming matter extracted; this appears to be a thick viscous liquid, of a brown colour, and resin-

ous smell and consistence; the flesh is decomposed by the admission of the air, but the bones still retain their soundness. A shield of copper, which lies in the vault, is inscribed with a notification of Sir Edward Hungerford's reposing in the vault:

"Hic intus recondit" mortale totum insignis domini Edw. Hungerford, de cosham in com. Wilts, ho^{bilis} orb. bal. mil. fil. nat. max. domini Antho. Hungerford, de Blakbourton in com. Oxon. eq. aurat. et uxor. ejus dnæ Luciae Hungerford, filiae Gualt. Hungerford, de Farley Hungerford in agro Somerset. eq. avrati. ejus antiquiss. et clariss. prosapiæ de Farley Hungerford fuit terminus. Felici thalamo conjunct, dnæ Margaretæ filiae et cohered. Guil. Hallyday, civis et alderm. Lond. per annos xxvii. obiit x^o. kal ix^{bris}. mdcxlviii. an^o. ætat. lii^o."*

FROME

is a large populous market town, agreeably situated on the north-east declivity of a hill in the forest of Selwood. It derives its name from the river Frome, which, continuing its course from Samfield Common, in Wiltshire, passes through the lower part of the town, under a stone bridge of five arches. The town is irregularly built, and the streets narrow and ill paved. The number of inhabitants amount to about 9,000, who are chiefly employed in the woollen manufacture; which, however, is rather upon the decline than otherwise. It is calculated that about 190,000 yards are annually made here at present.†

The town of Frome was formerly, and by some is still, called *Frome Selwood*. The name Selwood it derived from the wood in its neighbourhood, now called Selwood Forest. This wood, in early times, as Ethelward informs us, gave the name of Selwoodshire (Sealwardscire) to the adjoining country.

The first account we have of Frome commences with the reign

* Warner's Walk, &c.

† Agricultural Survey.

reign of Ina, King of the West Saxons, whose kinsman, Aldhelm, Monk of Malmesbury, and afterwards Bishop of Sherborne, built a monastery here, in honour of St. John the Baptist, about the year 705. The persecutions of the Danes, during their inroads into these parts, compelled the religious inhabitants of this sacred consecrated building to disperse themselves, and they never seem afterwards to have re-assembled. The church, however, was still standing so late as the year 1150, as we learn from William of Malmesbury, who mentions it as a structure of great durability, being, in his time, wonderfully entire. There are, indeed, some vestiges of it to be seen even at this day, in that part of the town which is called Lower Keyford: these have been converted into small apartments for poor families. Not far from this spot, at the intersection of two streets, there formerly stood a very ancient cross of an octagonal shape, placed upon a square pedestal, which having become so ruinous as to appear dangerous, was taken down above twenty years ago.

In that part of the town called *Hill Lane*, there once stood an old building, supposed to have been an ancient priory, the very small portion of which still remaining forms a cellar within a house built by a Mr. Bull. At the top of a street named Catherine Hill, there was formerly a small cell of nuns, also dedicated to St. John the Baptist, to which was annexed a chapel of considerable dimensions, now turned into small dwelling-houses.

In the reign of Henry the Second, the greater part of Frome was the property of the family of Fitz-Bernard. From them it descended by marriage into that of Braunche, and by the same title afterwards passed into the house of Leversedge. In this family it remained till the reign of James the First, when a great part of it was sold by Edmund Leversedge, Esq. to Sir Thomas Vasavour, who, a few years afterwards, sold it again to Sir Thomas Thynne, whose grandson was created Baron Thynne, of Warminster, and Viscount Weymouth, by

Charles the Second. He was succeeded by his cousin, Thomas Thynne, father of the late Lord Viscount Weymouth.

The other parts of the Leversedge estates in Frome, consisting of the manors of Frome, Branch, and Vallis, and the hundred of Frome, continued in Leversedge family till the year 1706, when they were devised to Lionel Seamen, Esq. who had married the daughter and heiress of Roger Leversedge, the last of the male line. At the death of Mr. Seaman, they fell to his relation, the Rev. Lionel Seaman, Vicar of Frome, who, in 1751, sold them to John, Earl of Cork and Orrery. They are now the property of his descendant, the present Earl of Cork and Orrery.

Vallis House, the ancient seat of the Leversedges, is situated on the west skirts of the town. It is called, in the old record, *Falois*, *Faleis*, *Valeis*, and *La Valeis*, all corruptions of the word *La Valaize*, signifying, in old French, a bank or sloping hill. Very near the house is a beautiful romantic vale, called *Vallis Bottom*, which winds in a serpentine direction through the parish of Elms to Mells.

Within the tything and manor of West Woodlands, on the east of the town, is situated the church of Frome. It is a large handsome building, consisting of a nave, chancel, north and south aisles, and four chapels. On the south side of the entrance to the nave from the chancel, stands a quadrangular tower, with a neat stone spire. The chancel is very elegant, the area, formed by the rails round the communion table, being paved with black and white marble. The altar-piece is placed in a beautiful oval window, and represents a female pelican, with three young ones under it, all superbly gilt. From the floor to this window the wall is wainscoted with mahogany, curiously ornamented with carved work, in which handfals of wheat-ears are depicted in a very natural and striking manner. The organ, which is at the west end, makes a fine appearance, its front pipes being beautifully gilt.

Within

Within that part of the parish of Frome called the Woodlands, three miles south of the town, stands another church or chapel, called the New Church, which was built in the year 1712, by Thomas Lord Viscount Weymouth, and endowed with sixty pounds per annum, out of an estate at Pennard, in this county, to be paid to such minister as he or his successors should appoint to officiate there. This church is a handsome building, with a square tower, and octagonal spire at the west end. Mr. Joseph Glanville, the noted author of the work on witchcraft, was sometime vicar of this parish.

The Woodlands around this church are now the only part of the ancient forest of Selwood bearing any resemblance to its former state, “and have been within the memory of man, the notorious asylum of a desperate clan of banditti, whose depredations were a terror to the surrounding parishes.”

There are several alms houses and other charitable institutions at Frome, and among the rest a good charity-school: it stands near the bridge, and is a large handsome free-stone building. There is besides a free-school of the foundation of Edward the Sixth.

Here are meeting-houses for the various denominations of protestant dissenters: Baptists, Independents, and Presbyterians; Quakers and Methodists.

The town was formerly governed by a bailiff, but is now under the direction of two constables, who are chosen annually at the court-leet of the lord of the manor.

The manor of Keyford was sometime the property of the ancient family of Twyniho. Among the memoirs of this family there is a circumstance which throws light on a character but imperfectly sketched in the English history, and exhibits a specimen of the irregularities attending, at that period, the administration of public justice. It appears that their house was one day surrounded and broken open by a great number of people, who, without writ or warrant, seized on the person of Ankerette, widow of William Twyniho. This riotous party were

headed by one Hyde, of Warwick, and a Roger Strugge, of some place in the neighbourhood of Tucker. They forcibly conveyed the poor woman (who was equally ignorant of the cause of her imprisonment, and of the measures which were about to be pursued against her) to the city of Bath, where for a night they halted. She had not been allowed to bring a servant with her, nor even to stay a moment in the house, in order to accommodate herself with any articles of apparel. The following day after her arrival at Bath she was conveyed to Cirencester, in Gloucestershire, and hurried thence to Warwick, a distance of seventy miles from her home; here, by order of George, Duke of Clarence, brother of Edward the Fourth, who had directed the business from the beginning, she was deprived of all the money, jewels, &c. found about her person, and put into a place of confinement. Her daughter, who, anxious for her safety, and desirous of tracing out the object of this forcible and unlawful proceeding, had followed with some relations and servants, was commanded by the duke to leave Warwick, without delay, and lodge the same night at Stratford-upon-Avon, under pain of death. On the third day of her detention, the unfortunate prisoner was carried to the Guildhall of Warwick (where the justices of the peace were holding their general sessions) and charged with having "maliciously and damnably" intended the death of Isabel, wife of George, Duke of Clarence, whose servant she had been. Being called upon to state the evidence of this intention, her prosecutors swore that she had administered unto the said Isabel "venymous drynke of ale myxt with poyson, to poyson and slee the seid Isabell, of which drynke the seid Isabell sekeny'd fro the 10th daye of Octobre, unto the Sondag next before the fest of the natyvite of our Lord then next following (A. D. 1478) which Sondag she then and thereof died." To these heinous charges Ankerette Twyniho pleaded not guilty. The jury, after having heard the regular process of trial, being about to consult together, were so intimidated by the menaces of the duke and his party, who attended in

in the court, that they at once delivered a verdict of "*guilty*," whereupon the justices pronounced sentence of death, and the wretched lady was dragged through the middle of the town of Warwick to the gallows, on which she was without ceremony hanged. These particulars are collected from a petition which appears on the rolls of parliament (seventeenth of Edward the Fourth); and that no doubt was entertained of the utter falsehood of the charges, is proved by the object of that petition being granted, in consequence of which the record of the indictment, the process, verdict, and judgment, and things depending upon the same, were annulled, repealed, and made void.*

At the sign of the Bull in Frome there is a cask, which is shewn as a curiosity to strangers. It will contain not less than six hundred puncheons.

SHEPTON-MALLET

is a market-town and parish, in the hundred of White-stone, about ten miles from Frome. The Roman *fosse* road passes a little to the eastward of the town. It contains about twenty narrow and dirty streets and lanes; but it has for many years carried on an extensive manufacture of knit stockings, and various kinds of woollen goods; and is altogether a very populous parish. The manor of Shepton having for many generations been in the possession of the family of Mallet, took the additional name of Mallet. From the reign of Henry the First, its lords made it the head of their barony, and two cross-legged figures of them remain in the church; perhaps the Williams, crusaders in the reign of Henry the Second.† In this family it remained, till the last William Mallet dying without male issue, his two daughters inherited the estate. Upon the partition of the property,

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the

* Maton's Observations on the Western Counties, II. 170-173.

† Collinson III. p. 459. Gent. Mag. LI. p. 172. Gough Cam. I. 110.

the manor of Shepton fell to Mabel, and after some time passed, in marriage, by Cicely, daughter and co-heiress of Maud de Kyne, and cousin and one of the heirs of John de Vivon, or Vivion, to John de Beauchamp, of Hacche. She survived her husband, and greatly improved the estate, and procured for the town some important grants and franchises.* The manor at present is attached to the Duchy of Cornwall. Here is the county Bridewell, and an almshouse, founded by Mr. Strode, 1699, for four poor men. The church, a large and handsome edifice, in the form of a cross, stands on the east side of the market-place, having a tower at the west end, surmounted by a spire. The market-cross is a very curious structure, consisting of five arches, supported by pentagonal columns. In the center is a large hexagonal pillar, standing on two rows of steps, and supporting a flat roof, over which rises a lofty pyramidal spire, adorned with Gothic niches, and crowned with an oblong entablature, on which is the figure of our Saviour on the cross, between two others, representing the two malefactors; there are some figures of saints. This cross was erected in the year 1500, by Walter and Agnes Bucklond, or de Buckland, as appears by an inscription on a brass-plate affixed to the central pillar. Lands of considerable value have been appropriated to the reparation of this curious structure.

In the year 1763, the following extraordinary circumstance happened in the vicinity of this town: one Owen Parfitt, an old man, by trade a tailor, but who had in his younger days been a soldier, was living at West Shepton, in this parish. By long illness, and a mental despondency, he was reduced to such extreme weakness, as to be obliged to keep his bed. He was supported by the charity of his neighbours, and attended by an aged sister. By his own desire he had several times been brought down stairs in an elbow chair, and placed in the passage of the house, for the benefit of the air. In this situation he

* Mag. Britannia, Vol. IV. 316.

he was left one evening, for a few minutes ; but, on his attendant's returning (strange to tell !) this helpless man was missing, and no where to be found ; nor has he ever since been heard of. It is generally supposed, that, seized with some sudden fit of phrenzy, he quitted his seat, and that, leaving the town, he rambled through bye-paths, till he fell into some pit or pool, and thus terminated his existence.*

This town has given birth to some persons of note, particularly to Hugh Inge, or de Ynge, Bishop of Meath and Archbishop of Dublin, who died in the year 1528. Dr. Walter Charleton, a physician of some eminence, and well known as the author of a volume entitled "*Chorea Gigantum* ; or, the most famous Antiquity of Great Britain, vulgarly called Stone-heng, standing on Salisbury Plain, restored to the Danes. By Walter Charleton, Doctor in Physic, and Physician in Ordinary to his Majesty." This work was published, A. D. 1663, in 4to.† Dr. Charleton published several other works, which are enumerated in the *Biographia Britannica* ; and was one of the first members of the Royal Society. In 1689, he was chosen President of the College of Physicians ; and soon after the narrowness of his circumstances obliged him to retire to the island of Jersey, where he died, in 1709, aged eighty.‡

Simon Browne, a learned but unfortunate dissenting minister, was born at this place, about the year 1680. He was instructed in grammar-learning by the Rev. Mr. Cumming of the same town ; from whence he removed to Bridgwater to finish his studies under the Rev. John Moore. He entered on the pastoral office before he had attained the early age of twenty ; yet he is said to have acquitted himself to the general satisfaction of his hearers. He next removed to Portsmouth, and in

1716,

* Collinson, ut sup.

† Gough's *British Topography*, Vol. II. p. 369.

‡ Gough's *Camden*, I. 110. The *General Biographical Dictionary* says he died in 1707, aged 87.

1716, to the great regret of his congregation, came to London, at the request of the Society of Protestant Dissenters, meeting in the Old Jewry,* at that time, and indeed, at the present, one of the most respectable in the kingdom, and which has to boast the services of that profound scholar and critic, Dr. Lardner.† During Mr. Browne's residence in London, the controversy concerning the Trinity, revived by members of the established church, was carried on with the warmth and even acrimony which such questions but too generally engender. The dissenters, in various parts of the kingdom, entered into the dispute with their characteristic zeal; and in the early part of the year 1719, the famous Salters' Hall Synod was held. At one of these meetings, an ill-judged attempt was made to procure the subscription of the ministers present to the first of the thirty-nine articles, and also to the answers to the fifth and sixth questions of the Assembly's Catechism. This attempt failed: a majority of the ministers refusing to sign. Mr. Browne was among the non-subscribers.‡ He continued his ministerial labours at the Old Jewry about seven years, when, in the year 1723, he was attacked by a malady of a very singular nature, which never afterwards left him. He desisted from all the duties of his office, and could not be persuaded to join in any act of worship, public or private.§ He imagined "that Almighty God, by a singular instance of divine power, had, in a gradual manner, annihilated in him the thinking substance, and utterly divested him of consciousness: that though he retained the human shape, and the faculty of speaking in a manner that appeared to others rational, he had all the while no more notion of what he said than a parrot; and

* Now removed to Jewin Street, under the pastoral care of the learned and worthy editor of the *Cyclopedia*, Dr. Ab. Rees, F. R. S.

† Browne's Funeral Sermon, by Ant. Atkey, p. 20, 21; and *Town and Country Magazine*, 1770, p. 689.

‡ Biog. Brit. Vol. II. p. 643. Note H.

§ *Adventurer*, No. 38.

and very consistently with this, he looked upon himself as no longer a moral agent; a subject of reward or punishment.”* This singularly afflicting frenzy continued to impress the mind of Mr. Browne, sometimes in a greater and sometimes in a less degree, to the end of his life, which he was often in danger of destroying by his own hand, conceiving that he had no business in existence, and no concern in futurity. Yet amidst this apparent total abstraction of mind, or rather this chaotic confusion of intellect, Mr. Browne produced several works, displaying great powers of thought and reflection. In particular, two defences of Revelation against the attacks of Woolston and of Tindal, which have generally been regarded as masterpieces of reasoning.† Such indeed, was the force of many of his arguments, and the strength of his mind on every subject, except that of his own most unhappy case, that, at the very time he himself thought he had no rational soul, “he was so acute a disputant, that his friends said, he could reason as if he was possessed of *two* souls.‡” The dedication of his reply to Tindal is, perhaps, one of the most remarkable productions in the English language: it was addressed to Queen Caroline; but is not prefixed to the work; his friends dissuading him from the measure; it has, however, been preserved in various publications, and should have had a place here, would our limits have permitted.§

After Mr. Browne’s retirement into the country, he could not be prevailed upon to use any kind of exercise or recreation, when a complication of disorders bringing on a mortification in his leg, he died in 1732, in the fifty-second year of his age. He was buried at Shepton-Mallet, where there

* Funeral Sermon, p. 22.

† *Adventurer*, No. 88; and *Leland’s Deistical Writers*.

‡ *Gent. Mag.* Vol. XXXII. p. 453.

§ See *Biog. Brit.* Vol. II. *Adventurer*, *ut sup.* *Protestant Dis. Mag.* Vol. IV. and *Wilson’s History and Antiquities of Dissenting Churches*, Vol. I. pp. 352, 353.

there is a monument erected to his memory. He was, in every sense of the word, a good man ; and such was the liberality of his sentiments, that he would say, “ if none go to heaven but those who are *right believers*, I am afraid the narrow way to heaven will be made much narrower than our blessed Lord has left it.”* How many christians of the present day, who, so far from thinking they have *no souls*, are highly offended when they are told they possess not very large ones, will be found to subscribe to this truly wise and christian sentiment of poor insane Mr. Browne’s? The cause of his singular malady could never be ascertained ; but it strongly reminds us of a similar instance in the case of one Lewis Kennedy, who cut his throat, under the melancholy impression that he was become “ quite void of sense or reason, and therefore incapable to act.”† And few will read this account without its calling to their recollection the affecting case of the late amiable and unfortunate Mr. Cowper, author of the *Task*.

Shepton-Mallet, besides its church of the establishment, has meeting-houses for the various classes of protestant dissenters. In the reigns of Charles and James the Second, they used to assemble at a village, called *Newman-Street*, about a mile east of the town ; and also at *Ashwick*, either in a retired house, or, when the weather would permit, in an adjoining wood, where their intolerant enemies, the informers, were kept at a distance by the stout and determined courage of a number of hardy colliers who worked in the neighbourhood, and sometimes attended the meeting. About the time of the Revolution, the nonconformists of these parts opened a place of worship at *Downside*, about a mile from Shepton, towards Ashwick. In, or about, the year 1696, they formed into separate societies : those of Ashwick fitted up a house in their own parish, and those of Shepton erected a chapel in the town. This design was executed in the year 1703. In 1758 they built a larger and more commodious

* Letter to Mr. T. Reynolds, p. 21.

† Gent. Mag. XIII. 545.

modious place; and, from that period, dissenters of almost every denomination have continued to increase in this town.

BRUTON is a small but well built town, situated on the river Bru, from whence it derives its name. It possesses a good market, which is held on Saturday; and is also considerable for its manufacture of stockings. This town was formerly the seat of Sir Maurice Berkeley, the father of that John who distinguished himself so much during the civil wars, by his ardent attachment to the royal cause. On this account he was created by Charles the Second, Lord Berkeley of Stratton, and Lord Berkeley of Rathdowne, and Viscount Fitzardine in Ireland. Which titles became extinct at the death of his son Charles, in 1772. The heirs of this nobleman sold the manor to Sir Richard Hoare, whose son pulled down the mansion-house, leaving only a few unmeaning fragments to denote the place on which it stood.

William de Mohun founded the abbey for Black canons, in the year 1142, on the ruins of an older for Benedictine monks, built by Ethelmar, Earl of Cornwall. Great part of this monastery was rebuilt by William Gilbert, the last abbot, a short time before the dissolution. Over the north entrance to the church is a shield, with a chevron charged with three roses between W. G. On the north side of this passage is also a shield, with a pair of shears open, and the letter P. placed in the opening for Philip Sheares, another abbot. Part of the battlement over the south is still extant, and a shield with something between P. B. Abbot Gilbert's tomb still remains in the north-west corner of the church close to the wall; in the rebuilding of which, his skull was laid open. In the chancel, modernized by the late lord, is a very neat mural monument of white and grey marble, erected to the memory of Captain Berkeley, of the Tiger man-of-war. Besides this, there are several other monuments, none of which seem to require particular notice. The church itself is a large building, one hundred and twenty-nine feet long, and fifty-four wide, consisting of a nave, chancel, side ailes, a vestry room, and two porches, covered with lead;

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it has two quadrangular towers, one occupying the west end, and the other rising from one side of the north aisle. The latter seems to have formed part of the original structure, but the former is by far the finest, being finished in the most elaborate style of Gothic architecture, and ornamented with elegant pinnacles.*

In the market-place is an ancient cross, erected by John Ely, the last abbot of Bruton. Its shape is hexagonal. It is supported by six smaller pillars at the angles, and a large one in the middle. The roof consists entirely of the ribs of arches, which, issuing from the centre, diverge from pillar to pillar, and are elegantly adorned with fine sculpture. The market-house is a well-constructed building, having a large room over it, in which the quarter sessions are frequently held for the eastern division of the county.

There is an excellent hospital in this town for the support of a certain number of poor men, women, and boys. The latter are boarded with the master, and are taught reading, writing, and arithmetic. For each of these boys the master receives four shillings and sixpence per week, which is also the sum allowed for the maintenance of the old people. A suit of cloaths is given annually to every individual in the hospital, and a nurse is kept to attend upon the sick. The master of the free-school here for the time, being the bailiff and constable of the hundred, and the church-wardens and overseers of the parish, have the election of the candidates for admission. The boys continue at school till they arrive at the age of fourteen, when they are apprenticed out to useful trades. The premium formerly given with them was ten pounds, but it is now advanced to sixteen. This hospital was built by the trustees of Hugh Saxey, said to have been once waiter at an inn here, who left his whole property to be applied to charitable purposes. The annual income derived to the hospital from these estates, is very considerable.

The country in the neighbourhood of Bruton is remarkably pleasing. The hills around, though neither bold nor well-shaped in general, are nevertheless extremely interesting to the eye,

* Maton's Western Counties.

eye, from their gentle undulating outline, added to the richness of the verdure that covers them. "The vales are meadows, the declivities orchards, and the eminences sheep walks." *

Within this parish lies the romantic little hamlet called *Dishcove*, where the remains of a Roman tessellated pavement were found in the year 1711. The ancient name of this place was *Dinescove*; and, from the Norman survey, it would appear to have been anciently the property of the family of Harding, a Saxon thane.

At a little distance from Bruton is situated the *Priory of Stavordale*. It was founded by Richard Seville, lord of the manor of Wincaunton, for canons of the order of St. Augustine.† The donation of his estates for this purpose was made in the reign of Henry the Third. In 1533, this society was united to the priory of Taunton; and when that monastery was dissolved, the lands belonging to Stavordale Priory were granted to John, Earl of Oxford.

This priory has undergone an alteration not uncommon to monastic structures. It is now converted into a farm house and barn. The latter was formerly the chapel of the monastery, and still retains some Gothic arches and carved timber work. In the porch is a basin for holy water, and from the top rises a turret, used as a receptacle for a bell. Though the splendour of this sacred mansion is now entirely lost, the scenery around, says Maton, is sufficiently picturesque to excite interest, and "render it worthy of being commemorated by the pencil."

About three miles to the south of Bruton is situated the village of *Castle Carey*.‡ It had formerly a castle, which William Lovell, its lord, defended, during the civil wars in King Stephen's reign, against that monarch's forces. From this period no further mention is made of it in history, so that the place on which

* Maton's Western Counties.

† Collinson, Vol. III. p. 33.

‡ Leland's It. VI. 76.

which it stood is scarcely known to the inhabitants of the town, being only marked by an intrenched area of about two acres, called the *camp*, from which implements of war and bolts of iron have been frequently dug up.

Castle Carey has a charter for holding markets, but they have been discontinued for many years, except, occasionally, from Allhallow-tide to Easter. Here was also a manor-house, now almost entirely demolished, in which Charles the Second sheltered himself after the battle of Worcester.

This place contains a church which, though of small dimensions, has a very pleasing appearance, being situated on an eminence, and kept in excellent repair. It consists of a nave, a chancel, and side ailes, all of which are covered over with lead. At the one end of it is an embattled tower, surmounted by a spire.

The country around this village is extremely beautiful, and the society to be found there so respectable, that it is deservedly considered as a place of agreeable retirement.

Cadbury-North, is a considerable parish, in the hundred of *Catash*, about eleven miles south of Shepton-Mallet. It is situated on an eminence, in a rich and fertile country. In the reign of Henry the Sixth, William Lord Botreaux founded, "or rather intended to found," a college at this place.* The church was built by Elizabeth Lady Botreaux, about the year 1427, and is dedicated to St. Michael the Archangel. It is a large stately pile, beautifully situated on a ridge of hills, and close to the manor-house, which, as appears by a date over one of the doors in the great hall, was built in the year 1581. In the church are a few monuments and inscriptions, particularly one to the memory of Lady Magdalen Hastings, wife of Sir Francis Hastings, Knight. This epitaph, which is cut on a brass plate, on the wall, besides the necessary memoranda in prose, has no fewer than ninety-six lines of poetry, divided into

* Bishop Tanner's *Notitia Monastica*, p. 477.

into stanzas of six lines each. This elaborate effusion informs us, that lady Mary was a very good virgin ;

“ When choise of friends brought her to marriage-bed,”

much against her will, as her “ youth were tyde to age fare spent.” Her first lord dying, “ her ears shee stopt from all disswadens voice,” and took to herself a husband more congenial to her taste than her first, though, it should seem, “ of meaner state than herself.” With this husband she lived twenty-nine years, and devoted herself to works of piety and benevolence. The epitaph then goes on to state her last sickness, and how that she employed three preachers, who “ by turns ” assisted her in her devotions till she died, on the fourteenth of June, 1596.

Cadbury-South is a small parish, a little to the south of that last mentioned. The neighbourhood of this place is uncommonly grand and picturesque, and is said to have been the seat of some great military action in ancient times. Near the village of Cadbury are the remains of one of the most famous fortifications in this, or perhaps in any other county. It is situated on the northern extremity of a ridge of high hills, commanding an extensive prospect. Old topographers call it *Camalet*, of which Leland* gives the following account: “ At the very south ende of the chirche of South Cadbyri standith Camallate, sumtyme a famose toun or castelle, upon a very torre or hill, wunderfully enstrengthenid of nature, to the which be two enteringes up by very stepe way, one by north-este and another by south-west. The very roote of the hille whereon this forteres stode is more than a mile in cumpace. In the upper part of the coppe of the hille be four diches, or trenches, and a bulky waulle of yerth betwixt every one of them. In the very toppe of the hille, above al the trenchis, is *magna area*, or *campes*, of a twenty acres or more by estimation, wher yn dyverse places men may se fundacions and *sudera* of walles. Ther was much dusky blew stone that people of the

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villages

* Itinerary, Vol. II. p. 46.

villages thereby hath caryid away. This top withyn the upper waulle is twenty acres of ground and more, and hath bene often plowid, and borne very good corne. Much gold, sylver, and coper of the Romaine coynes hath bene found ther yn plouing, and likewise in the felds at the rootes of this hille, with many other antique thinges, and especially by Este. Ther was found, *in hominum memoria*, a horseshoe of sylver at Camallate. The people can tell nothing ther but that they have hard say that Arture much resorted to Camallate. Diverse villages there about bere the name of Camelat by an addition, as Quene Camalet, and other." This learned and accurate topographer and antiquary, speaking of this fortress in another of his works,* bursts out in a strain of rapture but seldom allowed to the feeling of an antiquary: "Good God!" says he, "What vast ditches! what high ramparts! what precipices are here! In short, it really appears to me to be a wonder of nature and art!" This hill is thus described by Selden, in the year 1612: "By South-Cadbury is that Camelet; a hill of a mile compass at the top; four trenches circling, and 'twixt every of them an earthen wall; the content of it, within, about twenty acres, full of ruins and relics of old buildings. Among Roman coins there found, and other works of antiquity, Stow† speaks of a silver horseshoe there digged up in the memory of our fathers."‡ Dr. Stukeley asserts that this place belonged to the Romans§ and says that it is made in the solid rock; has three or four ditches quite round, sometimes more, its figure squarish, but conforming to the slope of the hill. The area upwards of thirty acres. A higher work within, ditched round, is called King Arthur's palace, and might have been the prætorium, and have served

* *Assertio Arithari*, in Vol. V. *Collectanea*, pp. 28, 29. His words are: *Dii boni, quantum hic profundissimarum fossarum! quot hic egestæ tenæ valla? quæ demum precipitia! Atque, ut paucis finiam, videtur mihi quidem esse et artis et naturæ miraculum.*

† From Leland.

‡ Illustrations to Drayton's *Poly-Olbion*, p. 54.

§ *Itinerarium Curiosum*, I. p. 142, 150, pl. xliii.

served him too. The rampart is made of great stones covered with earth, with only one entrance from the east, guarded by six or seven ditches. Many round stones, supposed for slings or cross-bows, have been discovered in this camp. Roman coins, and other relics, have been found in plenty here, and all the country round. The coins were chiefly those of Antoninus and Faustina. Various camp utensils, and remains of military equipage, have been found at the top, and also near the never-failing spring in the fourth ditch, called *King Authur's Well*. Camden is of opinion, that this fortress may probably have been that Cathbergion, mentioned by Nennius,* where, as this writer asserts, King Arthur completely overthrew the Saxons; but the MS. copies of Nennius disagreed in this, as in other particulars. Writers are much divided as to whom this place owes its origin. The most probable conjecture seems to be that of Stukeley, who, as we have before observed, gives it to the Romans; there being no mention of Camelet in the Norman Survey.

This manor, together with that of North-Cadbury, belonged to the Lords Moels, in the reign of Edward the Third, and descended by marriage to the family of the Courtneys. It afterwards, by marriage with “one of the richest heiresses ever was in England,†” came into the possession of the Hungerford's; and afterwards to that of Sir Francis Hastings, who, having no children, sold both the Cadbury's to Richard Newman, Esq. High Steward of Westminster, who suffered under Oliver Cromwell, for his attachment to Charles the First, and was rewarded by the succeeding monarch by an augmentation of his family arms, of *gules*, a portcullis crowned *or*.‡ To this family Cadbury at present belongs.

The church is a small, but neat edifice, dedicated to Thomas à Becket, and consists of a nave, chancel, south aisle, and a

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porch

* MS. History of Britain, cap. 62, p. 138. Edit. Bertr. Havinae.

† Magna Britannia, IV. 763.

‡ Collinson, II. 67, 68.

porch on the north side. It has an embattled tower at the west end, containing five bells.*

Queen Camel is a parish of some extent, about nine miles west from Wincaunton, and comprises a small ill-built town, consisting principally of one wide street. It was a place of some note before it was nearly destroyed by fire, in the beginning of the nineteenth century. It is now chiefly remarkable for having in its neighbourhood a remarkable spring, very cold to the touch, and offensive to the smell; which is not much unlike burnt gunpowder mixed with water. It is fenced round with a stone wall, raised above the ordinary level of the river, which, however, sometimes overflows it; when they lade out the water on the fall of the flood, and the well is again filled by the sulphurous spring. It is said to have been used with success in scorphulous cases; and is much resorted to by the country people. The church, dedicated to St. Barnabas, has nothing remarkable to claim the notice of the antiquary. The tower is ninety feet high, containing a clock and six bells.

WINCAUNTON, is a small, but neat town, most delightfully situated on the western declivity of a hill, which is well cultivated, and shaded with wood. It is watered by the river Cale, from whence it derived its original name, Wincalton. This town contains several handsome houses, inns, and shops. The houses in it amount to nearly four hundred in number, and the inhabitants fall little short of two thousand. These carry on a considerable trade in serges and stockings, as also in cheese, great quantities of which are brought hither from the neighbouring villages, and sold to dealers in London. The market is held here on Wednesday, and its fairs on Easter Tuesday and the twenty-ninth of September. Wincaunton possesses likewise a workhouse and a poorhouse. At the west end of the town, on the road to Castle Cary, is a handsome stone bridge

* Collinson II. 73. Probably this tower is the "stone spire," which Mr. Gough says is "not mentioned by Collinson." See Additions to Camden, Vol. I. p. 92.

bridge over the Cale, built and supported at the expence of the county.

This place is, beyond doubt, of great antiquity. It was noticed even in the time of the Romans. About seventy years ago an urn was found here, filled with coins of that people; and, a little above Sutton, half a peck of the same sort of coin, with pateras and other antiquities, were also dug up* at a later period. The Saxon Thanes were long in possession of this town. After the Conquest it fell into the hands of the Sevels, Lords of Castle Cary, with which manor it regularly passed through that family, the family of the St. Maurs, and the Zouches, till, by the attainder of John Lord Zouch and St. Maur, in the reign of Henry the Seventh, it lapsed to the crown, and was granted by that monarch to Giles Lord Daubeney. The manor, however, still continues in the family of the Seymours. *Marsh Court*, the ancient seat of the Seymours and Zouches, is situated about three miles distant from the town.

This town has been rendered remarkable by its being the place where the first blood was shed during the Revolution in 1688; the Prince of Orange having, shortly after his landing at Torbay, attacked here a party of the king's dragoons, and put many of them to the sword.

The church of Wincaunton is a pretty large edifice, plain in its exterior structure, but very handsome within. It was built at an early period, and dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul.† Since then it has undergone considerable alterations; the chancel having been rebuilt, and the church new roofed and windowed, in the year 1748. This church is ninety-two feet in length and fifty-two in breadth, consisting of a nave, chancel, north and south aisles, all of which, with the exception of the chancel, are covered with lead. At the west end is a plain square tower, containing a clock and five bells. In the church-yard there are several monuments, none of which, however, are in any way remarkable, either for the beauty of their architec-

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* Stukeley's Itin. Curios. i. 150.

† Collinson, Vol. III. p. 34.

ture or the celebrity of those to whose memory they have been erected.

WELLS.

The town of Wells, situated in the hundred of Wells-Forum, is said to have been at one time the first city in the county of Somerset. Even at this day, though far inferior to Bath in splendor of appearance and fashionable elegance, it has considerable claims to the attention of the topographer, and possesses many charms for the lover of social retirement. In this city and its neighbourhood, the naturalist and antiquary will find numerous subjects of curiosity and interest. The uncommon structure of the Mendip Hills, their mineral productions, and prodigious chasms, solicit the investigation of the former; while the latter is called to examine some of the finest remains of ancient ecclesiastical architecture, which in this country have escaped the desolation of the elements, or the ravages of war. The history of its religious institutions is moreover well worthy of regard, as affording three most memorable examples of the uncertainty of human grandeur and princely favour, in the lives of Giso, Godwin, and Wolsey. In the same records we trace many melancholy instances of the horrors of religious bigotry.

The foundation and endowment of a monastery, or religious college, in ancient times, generally drew to its neighbourhood a number of people, who were allured either by motives of superstition or interest. From such establishments many of our cities derived their origin; and this, we believe, to have been the only advantage the country ever received from them. A miserable compensation indeed for the many ages of monkish bondage and intellectual degradation which they entailed upon mankind. But when superstition, or fanaticism, holds up the mirror to nature, it is happy if the smallest spot escape inversion and deformity.

The city of Wells owes its existence to the pious zeal of
Ina,

Ina, king of the West Saxons, who built a collegiate church here, in honour of St. Andrew, so early as the year 704. It was not, however, incorporated till the reign of Richard the First. King John afterwards confirmed the charter, erected the city into a free borough, and granted the citizens a free market on Sundays, and a fair on the feast of St. Andrew, St. Catherine's Day, the Invention of the Holy Cross, and the morrow of St. John the Baptist. The corporation was then styled, "*The Master and Commonalty of the Borough of Wells;*" but, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the city was re-incorporated under the name of "*The Mayor, Master, and Burgesses, of the City of Wells.*" This borough sends two members to parliament, who were at first chosen at the county court, but, since the reign of Edward the Fourth, by the mayor and commonalty.

Wells is very pleasantly situated under the Mendip Hills, which recede from it in the form of an amphitheatre, sheltering it to the north, while fertile and extensive meadows range themselves to the south. This city, though small, is populous, and generally well laid out. The streets are clean and commodious. The buildings for the most part neat, and not unfrequently elegant. Its noble cathédral, and St. Cuthbert's church, with their rising towers, give it an air of dignity and grandeur, and deeply impress the religious visitant with feelings of piety and veneration.

The ancient appellations of this city were, *Tethiscine*, *Tudingtone*, *Tidington*, *Theodorudunum*, *Welwe*, *Wielea*, and *Fonticuli*. The name Wells it derived from a remarkable spring, called *St. Andrew's Well*, vulgarly, *Bottomless Well*, which rises near the episcopal palacé. Hence issues a véry copious stream, which, after encircling the palace, transmits itself through the south-west parts of the city. This well is supposed to possess medicinal, and even *miraculous* properties, being the favourite well of St. Andrew. This opinion it was which induced King Ina to fix upon this spot as a proper situation for erecting a collegiate church in honour of that saint.

The market-place is wide and airy. Here there formerly stood

a curious cross, built in 1342, by Bishop Knight and Dean Woolman, for the accommodation of the poor. This structure was supported by stone pillars, and over the arch was a room, originally intended for the transaction of public business. The whole was surmounted by a small turret. Round the cornice was a Latin inscription, in memory of its founder, and expressive of the purposes for which it was designed.

Near the site of this cross the present city conduit stands. It was erected by Bishop Beckington, about the year 1451. It is a handsome structure, of a hexagonal shape, embellished with Gothic niches, roses, &c. and crowned with a conical roof. The water of this conduit, which supplies the city, is conveyed by leaden pipes from an aqueduct, also the gift of Bishop Beckington, situated near the source of St. Andrew's spring, between the cathedral and the bishop's palace. In commemoration of the services of this prelate to their city, the burgesses were wont annually to visit his tomb in procession, and offer up prayers for his soul; a solemnity instituted by himself, from that anxiety for sublunary immortality, which directs alike the actions of the churchman, the sceptic, and the Platonist.

The college of Wells, as already mentioned, was founded by Ina, king of the West Saxons, in the year 704. In 766, Keneulf, successor to Sigebert, in the West Saxon territories, bestowed upon this church eleven manses and farms, situated on the river Welte, contiguous to the valley of Wanscomb, for the support of its clergy, who were originally only four in number. In the same state did this religious seminary continue to subsist till the year 905, when it was erected into a bishop's see, and the province of Somerset assigned to the incumbent, as his diocese and seat of jurisdiction. This prelate was succeeded by Wiffeline, who became very remarkable for his piety and learning. He it was who laid the foundation of the present cathedral, which having been raised, improved, and adorned by his successors, has always been considered as one of the most splendid specimens of religious architecture in England.

This

This cathedral is of the form of a cross. Its length, from east to west, is three hundred and eighty feet, and its breadth one hundred and thirty. In the centre of the transepts rises a large quadrangular tower, one hundred and sixty feet high, the base of which rests upon four broad arches, and contains five bells. This tower, Mr. Maton thinks rather too heavy, in proportion to the rest of the edifice. The length of the nave is one hundred and ninety feet, which is separated from the two side aisles by eighteen clustered pillars, nine on each side, supporting pointed arches. The extent, from the choir to the altar, is one hundred and eight feet. Behind the latter is the truly elegant chapel of the Blessed Mary, which is fifty-two feet in length, and thirty-five in breadth, ornamented with Gothic windows, of the most beautiful and delicate workmanship. The western front is flanked by two smaller towers, in one of which there is a chime of six very large bells. This west front is esteemed one of the finest and most splendid pieces of Gothic architecture in Europe. It is adorned with a great variety of figures, of exquisite carved workmanship, placed in ornamented niches, or canopies, supported by elegant slender pillars of beautiful polished marble. At the top are the images of the twelve apostles, and below them are the hierarchs, popes, princes, and bishops. One whole line of this front is occupied in the display of a curious grotesque representation of the resurrection, in which is expressed the various attitudes of the resuscitated bodies, emerging from their earthly mansions. The larger statues, which adorn the lower part of this front, are also interspersed with other scriptural representations, portrayed in groups of high relief. Each side of the great buttresses is filled with figures, as large as life, of kings, queens, abbots, popes, and cardinals. On the wall, a little way from the ground, there is the following inscription: *Pour l'ame Johan. de Buttidie pries et treze jurs de.*

Bishops and dignitaries occupy, in profusion, the consecrated dust under this noble edifice, the internal decorations of which are

are for the most part monumental erections to their memory. Here the body of Ina, the first founder of the church, is said to repose. Here also rest the ashes of many prelates, of whom little is known, and still less, we presume, is worthy of record. We could wish that their narrowed opinions, their superstition and bigotry, were forgotten with the history of their lives, or recollected only to excite abhorrence alike against persecution and fanaticism, and to lead us seriously to embrace the sober dictates of rational christianity. The furious and intolerant votary of a particular persuasion is certainly a more dangerous enemy to the peace and happiness of mankind than the most inveterate sceptic to religious belief.

On the south side of the cathedral is the cloister, which is reckoned a fine building. The west side of it is one hundred and sixty-two feet in length, and was, together with the school and exchequer over it, built by Bishop Beckington. Its south side is one hundred and fifty-two feet in length, and was begun by the same bishop, but left to be completed by Thomas Henry, Treasurer of Wells, and Archdeacon of Cornwall. The east side is a hundred and fifty-nine feet in length, and was the work of Bishop Bubwith. It has a small chapel beneath, and a library above.

The chapter-house is a building of an octagonal form, fifty-two feet every way, supported by a central clustered pillar. In the centre of the nave, to the north of King Ina's monument, is a neat small chapel, between two pillars, called *Bubwith's Chapel*; where that prelate lies interred. Opposite to this chapel, also between two pillars, is another, called *Knight's Chapel*, although built by one of Beckington's executors. Adjoining to it is a stone pulpit, erected by Bishop Knight, who was buried under a large slab of marble, at a little distance from it. In the south aisle, opposite the choir, is a chapel of excellent workmanship, in which there is an alabaster effigy of Bishop *Beckington*, with a skeleton beneath it. At the upper end of the choir is a chapel, dedicated to St. Catherine, containing a statue, in full proportion,

tion, of Bishop Drokenford; and opposite this chapel is another, called *Milton's Chapel*, also ornamented with several monuments and effigies. In the north ailes there are other chapels, none of which, however, we deem it necessary to mention particularly, except that containing *Peter Lightfoot's clock*. This clock, the work of a monk of Glastonbury, is one of the most curious pieces of ancient mechanism extant. It has an astronomical dial, surmounted by a barrier of small figures on horseback, representing knights at tilts and tournaments, which, by a movement of the machinery, are ludicrously hurried round in rapid circumvolutions.

The College of Vicars, adjoining the cathedral, was founded by *Ralph de Salopia*. It consists of a double row of twenty-two houses, with a chapel at the upper end, and a hall over the court-gate, built by Bishop Enghun, and enlarged by Beckington. Of several gateways leading into the college-close, that on the east side, adjoining the cathedral bridges, is the finest. It has over it a gallery of communication from the church to the vicar's area, with a vast flight of steps at each extremity. The archdeacon's house, the residence of the celebrated Polydore Virgil, author of *De rerum inventoribus*, and a History of England, is now converted into an assembly-room. Between this house and the west gate of the close is a large handsome house, built by Dean Gunthorp, who had the honour of entertaining here King Henry the Eighth, on his return from the west of England.

Southward, a short way from the cathedral, stands the Bishop's Palace, a noble old building, of an august and venerable appearance, and more resembling the fortified mansion of a military baron, than the residence of a peaceful minister of religion. Its walls encompass a space of seven acres of ground, and are flanked by redoubts and half-moons. A deep fosse, or moat, supplied with water from St. Andrew's well, surrounds the whole; and, on the north side, is a bridge and stately gatehouse, serving as an entrance to the exterior court. On the east side of the
court

court is a dwelling house, containing several large and handsome apartments, with an elegant chapel. On the south side of the court, nearly opposite the entrance, the great hall formerly stood. It is now in ruins, having been demolished by Sir John Gates,* in the reign of Edward the Sixth, for the sake of the lead which covered its roof. It was one hundred and twenty feet in length, and nearly seventy in breadth, and had a handsome arched porch, with a vault, and a chamber over it.

St. Cuthbert's church is a handsome building, in the florid Gothic style, surmounted by a lofty square tower, containing six bells. Near it are two alms-houses, besides the hospital, founded by Bishop Bubwith, and endowed for thirty poor men and women. There is also in this city a charity school, for forty boys and girls, erected in 1714.

The history of Wells is, in truth, a history of its religious institutions; all the events relating to it worthy of notice being chiefly brought about by its pious pastors. To them are to be attributed all the changes which have at any time taken place in it; all its dissensions, civil and religious, and all the grandeur and magnificence it ever possessed. The collegiate church, we have already mentioned, was founded by Ina, king of the West Saxons. It was afterwards endowed with several farms, or manses, by Kenulf, the successor of Sigebert, for the support of its clergy, which were then only four in number. In this state it continued till the reign of Edward the Elder, when it was erected into a bishop's see, and the province of Somerset assigned to the incumbent, for his diocese, and seat of jurisdiction.† He was succeeded by Wifeline, a person illustrious for his piety and learning, who laid the foundation of the cathedral, which is still considered as a splendid specimen of religious architecture. About the year 1059, Giso, a native of St. Trude, who had raised himself to be chaplain to Edward the Confessor, was elected to that see, when on an embassy to Rome, where he was consecrated by the pope himself. On his

* *Lel. It.* II. 70.

† *Collinson*, Vol. III. p. 377.

his entry to his diocese, he found the estates of the church in sad condition: for Harold, Earl of Wessex, having, together with his father, Godwin, Earl of Kent, been banished, his estates were confiscated, and bestowed on the cathedral of Wells. To revenge this injury, he landed in the county of Somerset, levied contributions among his former tenants, despoiled the church of its ornaments, drove away the canons, and seized their effects. Giso expostulated with the king on this subject in vain; but he received from the Queen, Harold's sister, the manor of Mark and Mudgeley, as a trifling compensation for the injury sustained by his bishopric. Shortly after, Harold being restored to favour, Giso was in his turn banished; and when that monarch came to the throne, he resumed the greater part of those estates of which he had been deprived. Giso continued in banishment till the advancement of the Conqueror, when he and his estates were restored to the bishopric of Wells, except a small part of them which had been given to the monastery of Gloucester. Soon as Giso was reinstated, he made every effort in his power to recover all the estates which had been at any time wrested from the church; and in this he succeeded so well, that he found himself enabled to appoint an additional number of canons, and to set a provost over them, as well as those already in orders. He also built a cloister, a hall, and dormitory. To him succeeded John de Villula, who had in early life practised as a physician in Bath, with considerable success; but whose love of power very soon led him to forsake his profession, to assume the pontifical authority. His restless disposition, aided by a strong attachment to Bath, induced him to remove the episcopal seat to that city, after he had destroyed many of the buildings erected there by his predecessor. He renounced the title of Bishop of Wells, and styled himself Bishop of Bath; where he rebuilt the monastery which had been demolished, and named a prior to preside over its *religious*, instead of abbots, the former superiors of these holy Benedictines.

Robert,

Robert, a monk of Lewes, in Sussex, was the third bishop of Bath. This prelate, not content with ecclesiastical honours, thought proper to embroil himself in the quarrels of King Stephen and the Empress Maud, in order to attract the notice of the world to his political importance. One Geoffrey Talbot, commander of the imperial forces, having come into Bath in the capacity of a spy, was discovered by the bishop, and detained by him in durance. The inhabitants of Bristol being apprized of this, and anxious to support the interest of Maud, came unexpectedly in a body to Bath, carried off the bishop with them to Bristol, and imprisoned him in the castle. Nor would they consent to deliver him up, till the king gave them a promise to release Talbot, which he ultimately did, though with the utmost reluctance, and many severe animadversions on the conduct of the bishop, for allowing himself to be taken; an event which he thought him bribed by Maud's party, rather to court than avoid. During this period, the contentions between the people of Bath and Wells, relative to the seat of the episcopal see, became violent in the extreme. The consequence was, that the matter was referred to the arbitration of the bishop, who decided, that the bishops of this diocese should in future take their title from both cities, be elected by joint deputies, and be installed first at Bath, and then at Wells. This prelate rebuilt and adorned a great part of the present cathedral.

The next bishop of Bath and Wells was Reginald, who deserves notice in the history of the latter city, as being the first who obtained for it the constitution of a free incorporated borough.

Savaricus came next to hold the bishopric. He was, like his predecessors, Villula and Lewes, of a restless and intriguing disposition. When Richard the First was confined, in his return from Palestine, by the emperor of Germany, he interested himself in that event with no other view but those of temporary aggrandisement to himself. Being related to the emperor, he insisted on a promise from Richard, previous to his release, that
the

the abbacy of Glastonbury, then vacant, should be thenceforth annexed to the bishopric of Bath and Wells. To effect this, he engaged to give up the city of Bath; and, transferring the episcopal seat to Glastonbury, styled himself "*Bishop of Glastonbury*," till his death. He was buried in Bath, and had the following epitaph, expressive of his rambling disposition, engraved upon his tomb :

* *Hospes erat mundo, per mundum semper eundo,
Sic suprema dies, sib tibi prima quies.*

Joceline de Wells was the next prelate who occupied this see. In his time the monks of Glastonbury became clamorous for their old constitution, which they at last obtained, and Joceline assumed again the title of Bishop of Bath and Wells, under the former regulations. This title has ever since been retained by his successors in that diocese. This prelate founded several prebends, and first ordained vicars-choral, instead of canons, in the performance of divine service. He built two costly chapels, one at Wookey, and the other at Wells. He also rebuilt many parts of the church itself, which had fallen into decay; particularly the west end of it, as it now stands, of polished stone and marble.

Of the succeeding bishops of this city, with the exceptions of Ralph de Salopia, Beckington, Wolsey, and Godwin, nothing is mentioned in the history of Wells worthy of notice. The two former we have already remarked, as being the most munificent patrons of that see. Godwin was celebrated for his learning and the part he took in the reformation. The glory and misfortunes of Wolsey, the prime minister and favourite of Henry, are known to every one; being recorded with interest by the historian, impressed by the moralist, delineated by the painter, and embellished by the poet.

The Mendip hills, in the vicinity of this city, we formerly mentioned as worthy of observation, on account of their peculiar

* Godwin, 370. . . Camden's Remains, 373.

liar structure, their incavations, and the richness of their mines. The view of these hills is black and rugged. On the road from Wells to Cheddar* they approach and recede in a curious undulating form. Their summits are every where covered with large knolls, or protuberances, and their sides intersected with enormous fissures; which give them at once a whimsical and terrific appearance. One of these chasms extends nearly a mile in length, displaying to the eye a scene truly awful and sublime. In many places its rugged walls rise more than four hundred feet in perpendicular height, and at others fall into obliquities of double that elevation. Here are caverns, whose yawning mouths seem to mark them as the openings of gloomy *avernus*. These rocks, of immense magnitude, hang over the tremendous gulf, holding the mind of the astonished spectator suspended between feelings of horror and sentiments of majestic grandeur.

Among the caverns of Mendip, Okey, or, as some call it, Wokey Hole, deserves to be particularly mentioned. It is situated about a mile and a half from the village of Wokey. The approach to this cavern is extremely picturesque, and the surrounding scenery wildly magnificent. In the side of the hill is formed a semi-oval cove, or recess, cut transversely about two hundred feet from point to point. At the bottom of this cove there is a natural arch, thirty feet high and forty broad,† from which issues a clear rapid stream, and impetuously rushes over a rocky channel, fringed with a variety of aquatic plants and mosses. On the one side of it is a rocky terrace, which leads to the cavern's mouth. The entrance to this is narrow, but soon opens into a spacious vault, eighty feet high, the whole roof and sides of which are encrusted with sparry concretions, of whimsical shapes, and present to the eye a grand appearance by torch light. The water dropping from the roof forms large projections of petrified figures, and nodules of pellucid spar on the floor. The passage continuing hence, leads by a descent to

* Warner's Western Counties, 43. † Gough's Camden, Vol. I. p. 104.

to another vault, somewhat smaller, and below this a low craggy and irregular passage opens into an area, nearly circular, about forty yards in diameter, with a roof of a cylindrical form. The one side of this area has a fine sandy bottom, and on the other the cold limpid stream of Wokey water, here meeting with the rock, intercepts the passage, but the cavern extends a considerable distance beyond it. The floor is dirty, and obstructed by fallen pieces of rock; the roof in some places flat, in others arched. The rock is of a dark blue colour, veined with ruddy brown, full of spar, part of which is of the columnar kind, with some masses of coral. The people here fancy many apartments, utensils, and animals, belonging, as they suppose, to the witch who resided in this cavern, and whose figure they point out to the visitant in a sparry alabaster like mass.*

Near the entrance to Wokey-Hole is the hamlet of that name, watered by the torrent which flows from the cavern. Here was dug up, in the reign of Henry the Eighth, a large oblong plate of lead, which had formerly been affixed to one of the stones or trophies erected by the Emperor Claudius, to commemorate the final overthrow of the Cangi by the Proprætor Ostorius, in the year 49. Upon this plate was the following inscription:—

TI. CLAVDIVS. CAE
SAR. AVG. P. M.
TRIB. P. VIII. IMP.
XVI. DE. BRITAN.†

The Mendip Hills abound with lead, which is conveyed to Bristol, and from thence distributed to other parts. In the mines of these hills it is free for every Englishman to work, unless he has forfeited his right by stealing any of the working-tools, which the *grovers*, as the miners are called, frequently leave open on the hills, or only inclosed in slight huts. The mode of punishing delinquents, in this particular, is somewhat curious. The party convicted is shut up in one of these huts,

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which

* Collinson, III, 419.

† Musgrave's Antiq. Britanno-Belgicæ. I. p. 181.

which is surrounded with dry fern, furze, and other combustibles; these being set fire to, the criminal is permitted to make the best of his way out, by breaking down the hut, but he is never allowed to return to work there again. This punishment is called the *Burning of the Hill*. Besides lead, there are several other fossils found in these hills. They abound in lapis, calaminaris, and ochre. Iron ore has also been found, and even wrought here.

GLASTONBURY.

This town is situated in the *Isle of Avalon*, so called from its *apples*, or from *Avallac*, a British chief, said to have first pitched his residence here. The island was also called *Inis Witrin*, or the Glassy Island, either from the *glasten* or blue green colour of its surface, or because it abounded with *glast* or woad, a herb used by the aboriginal natives to tinge their bodies.

Like Wells, Glastonbury is indebted for its origin to its monastic institutions, which claim the honour of having existed from a period nearly coeval with christianity. According to the monkish annals, Glastonbury abbey was first instituted by St. Joseph of Arimathea, who buried the body of our Saviour, and whom Philip, the apostle of Gaul, sent to preach the gospel in Britain.

This town lies nearly five miles south from Wells, in a low marshy country. It was first built in the reign of King Ina, about the year 708, when the abbey came into greater repute than formerly, being much indebted to the munificence of that monarch. In the year 873 it was entirely demolished by the Danes, but was shortly after rebuilt by King Edmund, the ninth Saxon monarch, who exempted its inhabitants from all civil impositions and oppressions, and rendered it entirely subject to and dependent on the abbey. In this state it remained till the year 1184, when both town and abbey were consumed by fire. It was again rebuilt by Henry the Third, and once more destroyed, on the eleventh of September, 1276, by an earthquake,

earthquake, which laid the whole town in ruins, and precipitated the church of St. Michael from the top of the Tor Hill. At present Glastonbury consists of two streets, the principal of which runs from east to west, where stands the market-cross; while the other intersects it at the cross, in a direction nearly due north and south. Both these streets have many of their houses entirely built of stones from the abbey. Out of the ruins of the old abbot's lodging, on the east of the second street, the house called the Abbey-house was constructed in 1714, and adorned with arms and other ornaments, in alto relievo. The arms are those of Edward the Confessor, France, and England, quarterly; the devices, a cross between two cups; the initial letters of the abbots Beer and Fromund, an ear of barley, with pelicans, roses, pomegranates, two birds with expanded wings, encircled with a mitred garland, being devices for beer, symbols of the evangelists, and others. The great gate, which formerly led into the abbey and the great church, is now become an inn. In this house, not long since, the abbot's bed, a clumsy piece of furniture, was shewn to strangers, as a curiosity. The George Inn, situated in High Street, was formerly an hospital for the entertainment of pilgrims resorting to the shrine of St. Joseph, and to the other religious reliques, to be mentioned afterwards, which drew such a number of itinerant devotees to this hallowed spot. In speaking of the pilgrims to Glastonbury, the Rev. Mr. Warner tells us, many females reposed at this inn, and expresses a suspicion, founded on the fact of there being an under-passage from hence to the abbey, which, though somewhat libellous, we believe to be true, that they not unfrequently spent their nights in the arms of my "lord abbot," and his brethren. A mode of worship, doubtless, more congenial to the feelings of both parties, than paying their devotions to the bloodless reliques of departed saints.

On the site of the porter's lodge to the palace there was erected a good dwelling-house, the owner of which, in the seventeenth century, pulled down an old mantle-piece, and placed it in the street, where it remained for several years.

While it lay there he was offered three shillings for it, but refused to sell it for less than three shillings and fourpence. Many years after, his daughter, being about to build a small chamber, ordered a workman to use it in constructing a stairs. In cutting it the mason found nearly one hundred pieces of gold coins, stamped during the reigns of Richard the Second and Edward the Third, each of which were supposed to be eleven shillings in value.*

Above the George Inn there is another house, in which there is a window called the Tribunal, formerly ornamented with painted glass escutcheons, and arms of the abbots, kings of England, and other benefactors. On the south side of the same street is an hospital, or poor's house, founded and endowed in the year 1512, by Abbot Beer, for the maintenance and accommodation of ten poor women. Adjoining to this there is a chapel, the entrance to which runs from the street through an ancient gateway, having a room paved with Roman bricks. At the east end of the street stands an old chapel, or cell, dedicated to St. Margaret, founded by one of the ancient abbots, whose name is not recorded. On the west side of the second street the hospital of St. John is situated. It was erected, some say only augmented, by Abbot Michael, in the year 1246.†

The town of Glastonbury comprehends two parishes, St. John the Baptist, and St. Benignus, or Benedict, which were formerly under the patronage of the abbot. These contain, within their precincts, upwards of three hundred and sixty houses.

The church of St. John the Baptist is a very neat handsome building. It is surmounted by a fine lofty tower, peculiarly light and beautiful to the view. This church preserves many marks of former embellishments. In its lower division there are a great number of niches, which appear to have been filled with statues, as large as life; but only five of them now remain, three to the south of the tower, and two to the west of it.

* MS. notes by Savage, 1677, cited by Collinson, II. 263.

† Collinson, II. p. 263.

it. These, if we may judge from their robes, seem to be of the clerical order.* The western entrance to the church runs under an elegant sharply-pointed arch, consisting of numerous mouldings, one of the intervals of which is ornamented with a rich pattern of wreathed tendrils, bearing leaves and flowers. On the spandrils of the door-way there is the representation of a lamb, bearing a flag; a device emblematical of the saint to whom the church is dedicated. The figure of a pelican, in the act of feeding its young, is intended to denote the dependence of this church on the care and protection of the neighbouring abbey. In the chancel, and on the floor, there are several ancient monuments, in honour of persons of inferior note, who had been benefactors either to the abbey or the church. Against the south wall of the latter stands an old tomb, erected to the memory of John Camel, purse-bearer to one of the abbots, whose name is punned upon in several representations of camels, with latin inscriptions, which are now so much defaced as not to be easily intelligible.

The church of St. Benedict, or the lower church, is situated in the West Street. It was erected by Abbot Beer, whose initials are inscribed on a carved shield, in the centre of a garland, surmounted by a mitre, over the north entrance. On a battlement above is a cross, and two cups, with the letters R. B. at the bottom. Within the body of the church, in a pew belonging to the family of the Golds of Sharpham Park, there is a flat stone, bearing the following epitaph:—

“ En depositas, lector sub hoc marmore reliquias integerrimi viri Henrici Gold, de villa Sharphamiense equitis aurati, Banci Reginensi Justiciarii prudentissimi cujus anima, corporis domicilio soluta ad deum creatorem remigravit Martij die xxvi. anno Annæ Reginae ix^o. ætatis suæ lxvii. redemptionis nostræ MDCCX.”

The arms on this tombstone are: *azure*, a lion rampant, *or*; between three scrolls *argent*, Gold; impaling on a bar, between three lions passant, as many crosses patée.

Glastonbury Cross, which we have already mentioned to

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have

* Warner's Western Counties, p. 19.

have been situated at the point where the streets intersect each other, is so accurately described by Mr. Britton, in the first volume of his elegant work on "Architectural Antiquities," that we trust our readers will excuse us for quoting his account of it *verbatim*. "The Cross at Glastonbury, though a large and extremely curious structure of the kind, is scarcely noticed in the topographic annals of this county; its history is, therefore, perhaps entirely lost, and its portrait, I believe, is only preserved in the annexed print, and in another view published in Hearne and Byrne's antiquities. Since this drawing was taken (1802) the cross has been suffered gradually to fall into ruins; and about six months back, a part of the central column only was standing.

"There is something peculiarly unique in the shape and ornaments of this building. A large column in the centre, running through the roof, and terminated with a naked figure; clustered columns at each angle, with odd capitals, bases, &c. and gables, with pinnacles of unusual shape, all unite to constitute this one of the eccentricities of ancient building. From the time of the Norman conquest to the dissolution of the English monasteries, the varied and progressive styles of architecture are satisfactorily defined, and a very general uniformity prevails in all the buildings of a particular era; but the specimen before us differs from any thing I have yet met with. Hearne, in his history of Glastonbury, Camden, Willis, and Stevens, are all silent relating to this building. Hence I am inclined to believe, that it was erected at a time when English architecture was confounded and blended with such incongruity of ornaments, as may not unaptly be termed the *disordered* style. In the year 1802 I saw a mutilated inscription on it, with the date 1604, but cannot say that this alludes to the time of its building. There were also some armorial bearings carved on different parts of it. Among these was the arms (a cross between two cups) of Richard Beer, the last abbot but one, who died in 1524."

The Abbey of Glastonbury, situated on the south side of the
High

High Street, on the road leading from Wells to Bridgewater, we have already mentioned to have been one of the earliest institutions of the kind in Europe, and is said to have been founded by the saint who performed the funeral rites of our beloved Saviour.* It was at first built only of wattles and wreathed twigs. This erection having fallen into decay, another was raised on the same site, of more permanent materials, and of greater extent. St. Patrick, the apostle of Ireland, who visited Glastonbury about the year 439, was a munificent patron to this abbey, having repaired many parts of it which had again suffered from the corroding tooth of time. In 530, St. David, archbishop of Minevia, came here, accompanied by a number of his suffragan bishops, and laid out vast sums in adding to, and adorning, the buildings of this monastery.

Ina, king of the West Saxons, and the same who built the cathedral at Wells, far exceeded all who had gone before him, in munificence to this abbacy. He demolished the whole buildings formerly erected, and constructed in their place a monastery in honour of Jesus, and the apostles St. Peter and St. Paul, which he adorned in a most sumptuous and splendid manner. In addition to this edifice he erected a chapel, the silver plating and garnishing of which weighed more than two thousand six hundred and forty pounds. On the altar there were two hundred and sixty pounds weight of solid gold. The church-plate which he bestowed on this chapel was incredibly magnificent, being set with jewels and other precious stones of incredible value. Besides conferring these gifts he granted to the abbey a great extent of territory, and confirmed to the monks all the privileges, civil and religious, which had been at any time enjoyed by them. Among other immunities he rendered this monastery independent of the episcopal authority, and annexed to its jurisdiction seven of the neighbouring parishes, a measure which gave rise to continual disputes between the abbot and the bishop, during a period of 450 years. These parishes afterwards com-

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posed

* William of Malmesbury's *Antiq. Glaston.* printed by Gale, Ox. 1691, fol. Gough's *Camd.* I. 80.

posed the archdeaconry, and are still called *the jurisdiction of Glastonbury*.*

During the invasion and depredations of the Danes this monastery began to decline in importance, and to exhibit marks of ruin and distress. Its ancient grandeur however was fully restored in the reign of king Edmund, who appointed the celebrated St. Dunstan to preside over it, and gave him the free use of the royal treasures, in order to enable him to rebuild it. The foundation of the new monastery was laid in the year 942; and, a few years after, a numerous congregation of benedictine monks were introduced, from France, who brought over with them immense riches, so that Glastonbury became once more the most opulent and splendid religious institution in England.

The monks of Glastonbury continued to enjoy in peace the wealth and importance they possessed, till the abbacy of Turstun or Thurston, who so tyrannized over them, that they at last refused obedience to his arbitrary commands. Enraged at this contempt of his authority, he ordered in a party of soldiers to enforce submission, who impetuously rushed through the monastery, driving its religious inhabitants before them into the great church, where they killed two monks, and wounded many others who attempted to defend themselves with benches and candlesticks, in a situation at the back of the altar. After this outrage, many of the monks left the monastery, and did not return till the death of Thurston, in 1101, when Herlewin succeeded; who, by his judicious conduct and munificence, soon restored it to its former lustre. This abbot expended a large sum in raising a new church on the site of the old one, which had sustained material injury from the lapse of time. Henry de Blois, the thirty-eighth abbot, a man much esteemed for his learning and politeness, was the next great benefactor to this abbey. He rebuilt many of the manor-houses on the property of the church, and erected a number of buildings within the precincts of the monastery itself. He likewise bestowed upon it numerous

* Collinson, II. p. 241.

merous ornaments of great value, and several reliques of saints, and other religious curiosities; at least he cheated the deluded monks and laity into a belief of their antiquity and sovereign claim to pious estimation.

Some years after the death of this abbot, the abbey fell into the hands of Henry the Second, who named Peter de Marci to preside over it. His death happened in 1184. The same year the greater part of the monastery was reduced to ashes; but the liberality of the king soon enabled the monks to rebuild it; and succeeding abbots vied with each other in adorning and enriching it.

The last abbot of this monastery was Richard Whiting, who received his appointment in the reign of Henry the Eighth, through the friendship of the celebrated Wolsey, to whom the monks had devolved their right of election. This abbot did not long enjoy his dignity. Like other monasteries, the riches of Glastonbury, joined to the obstinacy of Whiting, were the immediate causes of its dissolution, and the ignominious fate of its pastor, who was executed upon the Tor Hill, his body quartered, and exposed in different parts of the country. The period was arrived which Providence had decreed to see the downfall of that splendid mockery of religion, that delusive and humiliating adoration of the Deity, which marked the Romish ritual during many preceding ages. The avaricious disposition of the intolerant Henry paved the way, through death and torture, to reformation and religious freedom. The more general dissemination of knowledge at this period, the stimulus given to industry, by the discovery of America, and the disclosures, made by the courtiers, of the monastic impostures, roused mankind from their lethargy, and led them to vindicate the dignity of reason and the glory of the christian character. How inexplicable a being is man! More rational ideas of divine worship succeeded a system of persecution and rapacity, which seemed, at first, to threaten annihilation to every sentiment of religion, and every feeling of humanity.

Thus was dissolved the abbey of Glastonbury, perhaps the
most

most famous and opulent in Europe, after having attracted the veneration of the world, during a period of fifteen centuries. The estates of this monastery, alone, now produce a yearly sum of nearly three hundred thousand pounds. But the heritable property of this church afforded but a small part of its actual revenue, which was chiefly derived from the donations of pilgrims, and the pious munificence of princes in every kingdom of Europe. The governor had precedence of all the abbots in England till the year 1154, when Pope Adrian the Fourth conferred that honour on the abbot of St. Albans, as a mark of his attachment to the monastery in which he was educated. The abbot of Glastonbury was always a member of the upper house of convocation, and a parliamentary baron, being summoned by a particular writ to sit among the peers and elders of the land. His table, attendants, and officers would not have been unworthy of the most powerful monarch.

Of these immense buildings, very little now remain; and what still exists exhibits woeful marks of the effects of time. In the great church the havoc made is truly deplorable. That 'mighty fabric, the erecting of which must have exhausted a quarry, is now only a heap of ruins. Its original extent alone can be discovered; though many defaced traces of splendid architecture are still to be seen among the mass of stones which now occupy its site.

The chapel of St. Joseph, which stands at the west end of the great church, is much more entire. In this chapel architectural beauty is carried to its highest pitch.* Its style is mixed Anglo-Norman, or Saxon, as it is commonly called, and partly Gothic, both perfect in their kind; a range of windows, rather loftily placed, surround the building. The little ornamented cornices edging the arches of the windows, are in the zig-zag manner, and of what is called *raised work*; that is, separated from the mass of stone by the labour of the chisel.† The light is admitted through these perforations, so that an unequalled airiness and elegance is thrown over the whole structure.

* Grose's Antiquities, V. 35.

† Warner's Western Counties, p. 24.

ture. Nor is it possible to pass the northern entrance without admiration, for here the builder seems to have exerted all his skill. The returning archways are supported by slender pillars, surmounted by magnificent capitals; the mouldings separated by four compartments of costly carving, all which exhibit splendid but tasty running patterns of foliage and fruit, tendrils and flowers, entwining each other in the richest profusion. A handsome crypt runs round the eastern part of the chapel.

The abbot's kitchen is still in better preservation than the other buildings of this monastery, and was probably of more modern structure. It is formed from an octagon, included in a square. There are four fire-places in it, one in each angle, having chimnies over them in the flat part of the roof. Between these rises an arched octagonal pyramid, crowned with a double lantern, one with another. There are eight carved ribs in the interior, which support the vault, and eight funnels for letting out the steam through the windows. Within this pyramid there is one of a lesser size, in which was hung the bell, whose chime, in days of old, was the signal for collecting the poor people at the adjoining almonry, which now lies in ruins on the north side of the kitchen. The stones of the pyramids are all cut in a slanting direction, and are bevelled in such a way as to throw off the rain.*

Beneath the ruins of this monastery, history informs us, many kings, nobles, and prelates were buried: the monuments, however, erected to their memory, are now entirely defaced or demolished. Among them it would be deemed an unpardonable neglect not to mention the name of the illustrious ARTHUR. This royal patriot having met his death at the fatal battle of Camlan, was brought here, and buried in front of the high altar, where he reposed undisturbed, neglected, and unknown, for a period of many ages.† A tradition, however, of his death, and place of sepulture, had fortunately been preserved among the British bards, who fled for shelter to the mountainous districts of Wales, after the Saxon conquest.‡ One of these poets hap-
pened

* Collinson, II. p. 240.

† Warner's Counties, ut sup.

‡ Grose's Antiquities, V. 34.

pened to discover the secret in a legend which he had the honour of reciting to Henry the Second. That monarch ordered the spot described in the poem to be opened ; when, at the distance of seven feet from the surface, a plate, with the following inscription upon it, appeared :—

Hic jacet sepultus inditus
Rex Arturius in insula Avalonia.

Encouraged by this, they continued their search, and found, at the depth of nine feet further, the hollowed trunk of an oak tree, containing the gigantic bones of the British patriot, who is justly considered as one of the greatest and most accomplished monarchs that ever governed any kingdom.

Much as we dislike the system which supported the splendour and opulence of the monastic institutions, we cannot contemplate the present condition of Glastonbury abbey, untouched by feelings of sorrow and regret. While we survey this sacred monument of antiquity, which, even in ruins, exhibits noble marks of former glory and magnificence, sentiments of melancholy reflection insensibly steal upon the mind. That glow of ardent piety infused into our breasts by the gloomy recollections they suggest, are naturally associated with the scenes of former days. We falsely imagine that the same sentiments must have animated the devotions of the monks. Bewildered by these feelings, we forget what history and philosophy have taught us. Nay, even when reflection returns, and forces us to condemn their institution, we cannot refuse our tears to the instability of human systems.

This town has also places of worship for protestant dissenters.

The environs of Glastonbury, as well as the town itself, abound with religious monuments. Of these the most conspicuous is the *Tor*, or *tower of St. Michael*, which is situated on the top of a very high hill, a short way to the north-east of the monastery. The first erection upon this hill was a small oratory, the work of the saints Phaganus and Duruvianus, who visited Glastonbury about one hundred years after the building of the abbey by St. Joseph. This oratory, dedicated to the
honour

honour of St. Michael the archangel, was rebuilt by St. Patrick, and adorned by several of his successors. In latter times not only a church and monastery were added to the original building, but several dwelling-houses and offices were erected around it.* Indeed it afterwards became so extensive that many privileges were granted to its inhabitants by different monarchs. At last, in the year 1271, these structures were entirely demolished by an earthquake, the whole being precipitated, with tremendous force, from their lofty foundation, on which, for many centuries, they had braved the fury of the wind and the violence of the storm. They were soon after erected anew, and in a more splendid style. None of them, however, are now remaining except the tower; and what is remarkable, no traces of them, according to Gough, can be discovered. The appearance of the Tor, rearing its lofty head above the clouds, is very grand and impressive, as viewed by the traveller from the plain below. It is much admired also as a specimen of architectural antiquity. At the west end of it there is a carved figure of St. Michael the archangel, holding in his hand a pair of scales, in one of which there is a Bible, and in the other a Devil, who is assisted by another bearing upon the scales: both are represented, however, as much too light to poise against the holy volume.

To the south-west of the town is *Weary-all-Hill*, an eminence, which, as the monkish writers inform us, derived its name from St. Joseph and his companions resting here when much fatigued in travelling through the country, during their pious mission in England, for the purpose of preaching the christian faith. Here it is recorded that St. Joseph fixed his staff in the earth, which immediately took root, and ever after put forth its leaves on Christmas day.† It had, we are informed, two distinct trunks till the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when one of them was destroyed by a puritan.‡ The other met the same fate during the great rebellion. The blossoms of this tree were esteemed

* Collinson, II. p. 263. † Cant. 27 Henry I. ‡ Collinson, II. p. 265.

esteemed such great curiosities as to become an object of gain to the merchants of Bristol, who not only disposed of them to the inhabitants of their own city, but exported them to different parts of Europe. The probable truth, with regard to this tree is, that it was brought from Palestine, by some of the pilgrims, there being a species of thorn which blooms at Christmas a native of that country.

Besides the holy thorn, there also grew, in the abbey churchyard, to the north of St. Joseph's chapel, a miraculous walnut-tree, which never budded before the eleventh of June, the feast of St. Barnabas. This is also gone. These trees were visited as sacred by all ranks of people; and large sums paid for sprigs of them, by King James and his nobility. It is a matter of regret that the herd of mankind should be the slaves of superstition and credulity, but it is more than deplorable that princes and statesmen should listen, for a moment, to such notorious impostures, so many years after the downfall of monastic tyranny and delusion.

On the road from Glastonbury to Shepton Mallet, immediately under the Tor Hill; there is a spring, rendered famous, in 1751, for pretended *miraculous* powers in the cure of asthmatic diseases. One Matthew Chancellor, a parishioner of North Wotton, perceiving the unprosperous condition of Glastonbury, from the abolition of the abbey, bethought himself of inventing some method of enticing people to visit or settle in the town; and, if success be a test of foresight and ingenuity, he must certainly have possessed both in a very superior degree. He had been afflicted with an asthma for more than thirty years. Being seized with a strong fit, in the month of October, 1750, he afterwards fell asleep, and either dreamed, or, what is more probable, pretended that he dreamed, that he was at Glastonbury, some way above the Chain Gate, where he saw a spring of water, the most pure and refreshing he had ever beheld. He kneeled down and drank of it. When he arose, he observed a person standing before him, who, pointing to the well, told him, that by drink-

in

ing the water of that spring for seven successive Sundays, fasting, he would find himself perfectly recovered from his disorder. He added, "you must then make it known to all the world."* Matthew obeyed his instructions, went to the place appointed, and found there a well, similar to that of which he had dreamed. He drank of it every Sunday morning accordingly, and, at the end of the time mentioned, experienced the good effects of his faith in the Divine favour. No sooner was he recovered, than he proclaimed his miraculous cure throughout the whole neighbourhood; from hence it soon found its way to every part of the country. The stratagem succeeded: numbers from all quarters of the kingdom, and of every denomination, flocked to Glastonbury, to partake of the hallowed stream. At one time there were not less than ten thousand strangers in the town and its neighbourhood. Matthew had the satisfaction of enjoying, for nearly twelve months, the glorious privileges of a divine ambassador. He was respected and honoured by all, as the peculiar favourite of heaven. At last woeful experience taught the simple pilgrims that they were the dupes of the most abject credulity. They found themselves relieved of their purses, but not of their disorders. They returned home, deprecating their own folly; while Matthew and his friends alternately laughed and wept at the weakness of human nature.

Before concluding our account of this place, we must not omit mention of the *pyramids* recorded by William of Malmshury to have stood in the abbey churchyard, in front of the sarcophagus of King Arthur. The tallest of them, which was situated nearest the church, was twenty-six feet high, and consisted of five courses or stories. In the upper story was the figure of a bishop; in the second that of a king, with the inscription, HER. SEXI. and BLISVVERH. In the third, the names WEMCRESTE, BANTOMP, WENETHEGN. In the fourth, HATE, WYLFREDE, and EANFLEDE. In the fifth, and lowest, was the figure of an abbot, with this inscription: LOGVVOR, WESLILAS, and BREGDENE, SVVELVVES, HVVINGENDES,

* Collinson, Vol. II. p. 266.

HVVENGENDES, and BERNE. The other pyramid was eighteen feet in height, and consisted of four stories, whereon were inscribed, in large characters, HEDDE, episcopus, BREGORRED, and BEORVVALDE. These pillars, which have for many years been levelled with the ground, were erected in memory of some of the early abbots, whose remains lie buried beneath them.

At a small distance from Glastonbury, on the south-east, is *Sharpham Park*, famous in the annals of literature, as the birth place of Henry Fielding, one of the most celebrated of English writers, in the line of wit and humour. This gentleman was born in 1707. His father was a younger son of the Earl of Denbigh, and a lieutenant-general in the army. His mother was daughter to Sir Henry Gould, one of the judges in the Court of Common Pleas.*

Young Fielding received the first rudiments of his education in his father's house, under the care of the Rev. Mr. Oliver, whose manners at least were little calculated either to command respect or to ensure esteem. The character of Trulliber, in the novel of *Joseph Andrews*, is said to be designed as a portrait of this gentleman; and it certainly does not impress us with any good opinion of our author's regard for him. From the care of his preceptor, Mr. Fielding was removed to Eton school, where he made very rapid progress in his classical attainments, and formed an intimacy with several young men, who afterwards became ornaments to their country, in the career of political ambition. These were, Lord Littleton, Mr. Pitt, Mr. Fox, Sir Charles Hanbury Williams, and others, who ever after retained a warm friendship for him.

Mr. Fielding being intended for the bar, he was sent to prosecute his studies under the celebrated Vittrarius, professor of civil law at the university of Leyden, which was then in the zenith of its reputation. Here he distinguished himself greatly by his assiduity, the quickness of his parts, and his love for literature. At this interesting period of life, which generally decides
the

* Mrs. Barbauld's *Novelists*, Vol. XIX.

the character in future, his progress in study was cut short by pecuniary embarrassments. His father having married a second wife, found himself surrounded by so numerous a family, that he could no longer supply our author with the means necessary to continue at Leyden. He was therefore obliged to return to England, and join his fellow-students in London.

The science of law, considered as an enquiry into the relations of political agents, and the application of such general rules for their government as may seem best calculated to promote the public welfare, is, perhaps, the most interesting, as well as the most important study in the whole range of human knowledge: but of all the branches of professional pursuit, it certainly least deserves to be called a science. The common law, which derives its force from custom, is revered as sacred; too often for no other reason, but because it has been established from time immemorial. Mankind seem to attribute a sort of divine origin to what has taken its root in the chaotic ages of human reason. Even legislators, whose business it is to enquire into the utility of every law and its adaptation to existing circumstances, content themselves with relying implicitly on the wisdom of ancestors, who were, perhaps, little better than barbarians, and whose range of reflections, at any rate, was neither so extensive, nor so complicated as their own. The statute-law, in many cases, is founded upon principles so childish and whimsical, and the reasonings, even of the most scientific lawyer, so narrowed and distorted by technical subtilties, that the mind generally becomes either cramped or disgusted. In a word, to be at once a lawyer and a philosopher, is only reserved for a few men of strong rather than of brilliant genius. Is it a matter of astonishment, then, that Fielding, whose talents lay entirely toward wit and humour, and whose constitution was warm and ardent, should have preferred the enticements of pleasure to the dry sophisticated reasonings of the Temple? His allowance from his father was nominally two hundred a year. To supply the deficiencies of his income, and

support a gay life, he began to write for the theatre, at the age of twenty-one, and, during ten succeeding years, produced three-and-twenty dramatic pieces, most of which, however, were but indifferently received. This is certainly a matter of surprise. It seems reasonable to presume, that the author of "Tom Jones" and "Joseph Andrews," works abounding so much in character and humour, would have been well calculated to shine in the more limited walk of the comic muse. His youth, and the hurry and embarrassments under which he then wrote, were probably the causes of their great inferiority.

In the midst of his career of gaiety and dissipation Fielding became passionately enamoured of Miss Craddock, of Salisbury, a celebrated beauty, with a fortune of fifteen hundred pounds. He paid his addresses to her, was received with favour, and soon after married her. Upon this event, he resolved to abandon the scene of his former follies, and retire, with his wife, to a small estate in the country, which, about this time, he succeeded to by the death of his mother. Here he might have lived in happiness, and amused himself in writing his literary productions; but the natural vanity of his disposition led him to vie with the neighbouring gentlemen in the expences of his establishment, a mode of conduct which soon dissipated all his little fortune, and left him without any other resources but his industry and talents.

He now applied himself to his original profession, the law, and was, after the due preliminaries, admitted to the bar. In this capacity he acquired considerable respectability. The gout, however, the reward of his early pleasures, began to make depredations on his constitution. He was therefore compelled to limit his practice, and betake himself again to his pen, to supply the wants of his growing family. Many essays, plays, and pamphlets, were the product of his leisure hours. He wrote in a periodical paper, called the *Champion*. He likewise attempted poetry, but with so little success, that his attempts exposed him to the satire of Swift, in the following lines:—

“ ————When

“ ——— When you rashly think
 No rhymers can like Welsted sink ;
 His merits balanc'd, you shall find,
 That Fielding leaves him far behind.”

About this time appeared his history of *Jonathan Wyld*; and shortly after his *Joseph Andrews*, the first regular novel he published. This piece acquired him deserved celebrity. But he soon after met with a heavy affliction, in the loss of his beloved wife, whom he mourned with an acuteness scarcely to be expected in a man of pleasure. He afterwards, however, married a second time, and his wife survived him. In 1745 he published a periodical work, called, *The True Patriot*, and another, entitled, *The Jacobite Journal*. These services were rewarded, by government, with the appointment of acting justice of the peace for Middlesex. In this situation he was very active and diligent, and wrote several papers on police, in one of which he gave the first hint of county workhouses. Notwithstanding these avocations, he found time to write his history of *Tom Jones*, and also his *Amelia*, novels which are familiar to all who have any relish for genuine humour and characteristic incident.

Our limits will not permit us to give a critique upon these productions separately. We must content ourselves with observing, that of all his works, *Tom Jones* is the most perfect, and abounds most with genuine wit, humour, character, and plot. *Amelia* has less of characteristic humour, but possesses more touches of the tender and pathetic. *Joseph Andrews* is inferior to either, but would still establish the fame of any ordinary writer.

Mr. Fielding died at Lisbon, whither he had gone for the recovery of his health, in the year 1754. The last gleams of his genius were displayed in a small piece, entitled, a “*Journey to Lisbon*,” in which, however, there is “more peevishness than humour.”*

A monument was erected to his memory by the English factory at that city, on which was inscribed an elegant epitaph, from the pen of La Chev. de Meyrionet, the French Consul.

SOMERTON

is a small market town and borough, situated near the centre of the county, to which it gave name. The scenery around it is peculiarly beautiful. Cultivated hills are here finely interspersed with rich and luxuriant vallies. The soil is dry, but extremely fertile. Every thing in Somerton, and its neighbourhood, conspires to restore and establish health. It was called Sumurton in Saxon, which signifies pleasant.* This town was at one time the residence of royalty. Ina, and several other West-Saxon monarchs, held their courts here. John, king of France, was confined in the castle of Somerton, after his removal from that of Hertford.†

In the time of Leland, this castle was converted into a prison, “and embattelled about *in perpetuam rei memoriam*.” A part of the town wall, and a round tower, still remain, but in a very ruinous condition.

Somerton consists principally of five streets, containing about 250 houses and 1145 inhabitants. One portion of it is called the Borough of Somerton. Another small division adjoining to it is named the tithing of *Lower Somerton*, or *Somerton Erleigh*. About a mile eastward from the town is the tithing of Hurco, having nine houses. The whole parish contains about 1500 inhabitants.‡

Somerton is supposed to have been a Roman citadel; but history is silent concerning it previous to the heptarchy, when it is said to have been a town of considerable extent, and strongly fortified. In the year 877, it was plundered and laid waste

* Collinson, III. 181. † Hollinshead, Salmon, in Herts, p. 84.

‡ Collinson, III. p. 182.

waste by the Danes, under the conduct of Inguar and Ubba, but was * rebuilt, and became again an important place, both for population and the strength of its fortress.

The church of Somerton is an ancient building, consisting of a nave, chancel, side ailes, vestry room, and porch. At the south end of it is an octangular embattled tower, sixty-three feet high, in which there are eight windows and six bells.

In a niche, formed by a plain pointed arch, in the south wall of the belfry, lies the effigy of "one Edithe,† in portraiture of stone." Several of the chief nuns were also buried here. The other monuments do not require particular notice.

Near the church is an excellent free-school. The town has also a well-endowed alms-house, for eight poor women. In the centre of it stands a hall for holding petty sessions.

Somerton is governed by a bailiff and constables, elected annually by the inhabitants.‡ The market is held here on Tuesday. Its fairs are, the Tuesday of Passion Week, and the third, sixth, and ninth Tuesday following. The living is a vicarage, in the gift of the earl of Ilchester.

LANGPORT

is a market town of great antiquity, seated on the river Parret. It was once a royal burgh; and the inhabitants, by immemorial custom, still claim certain privileges, no lord of any adjoining manor having any right of soil in the two pieces of land in its neighbourhood, called *Common Moor* and *Ragg Common*; the one consisting of about one hundred and fifty acres of good meadow land, and the other of about seventy acres, of a somewhat inferior quality. On these tracts of land the neighbouring inhabitants, of all descriptions, assume the liberty of feeding their cattle, and even of building in what manner they think most convenient to themselves.* The town, at present, con-

K k 3

sists,

* Cotton, MSS. † Ibid. ‡ Gen. Biog. Dict. § Collinson, III. 132.

sists, chiefly, of two streets, and is divided into two parts, called *Langport-Eastover* and *Langport-Westover*, containing, together, about one hundred and thirty houses.

It was the intention of Henry the First to have erected, at this place, an abbey for Benedictine monks, and the refreshment of travellers; but he afterwards changed his mind in favour of Reading, in Berkshire.* Stukeley,† but without any authority, asserts, that this was probably a Roman station.

About the year 1312,‡ was founded at this place a hospital for poor lepers, and Bishop Dockensford granted the lepers a brief to collect alms throughout his diocese for their support. § Richard Metford, bishop of Salisbury, granted an indulgence to the benefactors of this hospital.|| Here is a church, dedicated to All-Saints, having a fine tower, containing five bells, and four large niches on its west side, the statues of which are now destroyed. The old building, commonly called the Hanging Chapel, is used as a free-school, which was founded by Thomas Gillet, of Compton-Pauncefort, in the seventeenth century.

Not far from Langport is the parish of *Muchelney*, or the Great Island, so called from its being sometimes rendered insular by the stagnant waters, occasioned by the overflowing of the rivers Ivel and Parret. In this parish there was formerly an abbey for Benedictine monks, said to have been founded by King Athelstan. Its ruins have been converted into a barn. Part of the ancient kitchen, with the stove, may still be seen; there is also a good deal of painted glass in the windows, which are ornamented with sculpture on the outside. Several of the stone-staircases and painted arches are tolerably entire.

The parish of *Bishops Huish* adjoins to Langport on the north-east. The church of this parish is adorned with an elegant

* Beauties, &c. Vol. I. p. 90; and Leland's It. II. 53. † It. I. 147.

‡ Gough's Cam. I. 98. Collinson says, "before the year 1310."

§ Archer's Account of Religious Houses.

|| Harleian MSS. No. 862.

gant and stately tower, at the top of which there are eight Gothic pinnacles, each surmounted with a spear head.

IVELCHESTER, OR ILCHESTER,

has many claims on the attention of topographers. Its great antiquity and ancient importance give it a superiority over most other towns in the county. It was the *Cair-pensavelcoit* of the Britons,* the *Ischalis* of Ptolomy, who ranks it as the first town in the territory of the Belgæ,† and the *Gifelcestre* of the Saxons. When the Romans possessed these parts, this was one of their most eminent stations, and was by them fortified by a strong wall and deep ditch, which they filled with water from the river Ivel. Its form was an oblong square, standing upon the oblique points of the compass; the celebrated fosse-road, now occupied by one of the principal streets, passed through it from north-east to south-west. Vestiges of these Roman works are still visible: the ditch, forming the road called Yard Lane, anciently Zerde, crosses the fosse and the gardens at the back part of the town, where the wall has been often discovered by the gardeners.‡ Dr. Stukeley§ measured the Roman station three hundred paces by two hundred. It is said there was formerly a castle here, and a figure of the bailiff's staff has been preserved by Stukeley, || and copied and corrected by the original, in Gough's edition of Camden. It is a curious antique, with a head of gilt brass, having statues of two kings, a queen, and an angel, with the following lines, in old French, round the bottom,

Jesu de dru erie,
Neme dun et mie.

K k 4

This,

* Nennius's MS. Hist. Brit. Havinæ, p. 144. Hist. Joh. Rossi. MS. p. 91.

† Geog. lib. ii. cap. 3. tab. I.

‡ Collinson, III. 298.

§ Itin. I. p. 146. pl. lxxii.

|| Ibid, I. pl. iv. fig. I.

This, Mr. Gough remarks, was probably the head of a crossier from the abbey, and afterwards fixed on the staff.

At the time of the Norman conquest this place was a city of considerable importance, and had within its walls one hundred and seven burgesses.

In the year 1088, the forces of Gefferey, bishop of Constance, and William de Ewe, who had united with the confederate barons in behalf of Robert of Normandy, against William Rufus, received, by the besieged inhabitants of this place, a fatal check; a circumstance which tended in no small degree to enhance the fame and aggrandizement of the town. In 1365, Edward the Third granted an exclusive patent for holding the county courts and assizes at this place,* and also for repairing the streets and highways.

This town had begun to return members to parliament in the year 1297; but, in 1359, this privilege was rescinded; nor was it restored till the year 1471. It was soon afterwards again taken away, and once more restored, in 1621, by James the First. It at present sends two members: the eloquent and patriotic Right Hon. Richard Brinsley Sheridan, and Michael-Angelo Taylor, Esq. who are returned by the bailiff and twelve burgesses, and about one hundred and seventy inhabitants paying scot and lot.†

This

* Pat. 40, Ed. III. p. 1, m. 29 in dors.

† This borough is celebrated in electioneering contests. The whole property formerly appertained to Mr. Troward, an eminent attorney in the neighbourhood of the Strand, London; and then came into the hands of Mr. Harcourt, a banker, who has been heard to say, that the electors drank out fifty hogsheads of his cyder in the course of one year, while several of them were so staunch to their party, that they requested, on their death-bed, to be buried in true-blue coffins. The same property has been since purchased by Sir William Manners, Bart. who stood for it at the general election in 1802. In consequence of petitions, &c. two other elections followed; and, in the course of these contests, a banker in the neighbourhood of St. James's was imprisoned. At the general election in 1806, Sir William Manners and Mr. Nathaniel Santon, an attorney, were returned. Vide Biog. Index to the House of Commons, p. 298.

This town has a market which has existed ever since the conquest, and is kept on Wednesday. There are also three fairs; and there was formerly a considerable manufacture of thread-lace, which has now very much declined. The public buildings are neither numerous nor important. The only church remaining of at least six, is dedicated to St. Mary; having an octagonal tower, fifty feet high, constructed of Roman stone. Here are also places of worship for the various dissenters.

The county court-house is a good building, as is also the new gaol; and opposite it, on the other side of the river, are the remains of the ancient hospital of White-Hall, founded about the year 1226, by William Dennis, or Dacus, for the entertainment of pilgrims and poor travellers, and was dedicated to the Holy Trinity. There are also remains of a friary, or house of black-friars, which had a subterraneous passage leading to the White-Hall nunnery. It has besides an alms-house for six poor men, and a woman to take care of the dwelling.

But this town is chiefly remarkable, as being the birth-place of the celebrated Roger Bacon, and of the pious and ingenious Mrs. Elizabeth Rowe.

ROGER BACON was born at the Friary-House, in the year 1214. He commenced his studies at Oxford, where, at a very early age, he shewed evident marks of that extensive and indefatigable genius, which distinguished him in after life. When he left Oxford he removed to Paris, at that time, regarded as the centre of learning. Here his progress in science was astonishing. He was looked upon as the glory of his country, and an ornament to the university. His friendship was courted by some of the greatest characters of the age. Robert Grouthead, afterwards bishop of Lincoln, became acquainted with him in this city, and ever after showed himself his zealous friend and patron. Having obtained the degree of doctor, he returned to England, and became a monk of the Franciscan order, at the age of twenty-six. This he did, it is supposed,

supposed, in order that he might the more easily prosecute his researches into the different departments of experimental philosophy. In this pursuit, he informs us, he spent, during a period of twenty years, no less than two thousand pounds, in constructing and purchasing instruments, and collecting books. This sum was generously supplied to him by some of the heads of the university. But the age, in general, was too ignorant and too superstitious to be instructed in a rational philosophy. The monks were afraid that their order would fall into contempt if their pretensions to magic were exposed to the world, and their miracles explained as depending upon simple universal principles, inherent in the system of nature. Persecution and misery were the consequences to Bacon of his superiority in genius and science. His writings were first confined to his convent; and at length, in 1278, he himself was imprisoned in his cell, where he remained for the long period of ten years, still indefatigably pursuing his researches, and every day adding new discoveries to the limits of human knowledge.

When Jerom de Ascoli, general of his order, who had condemned his writings, was elected pope, he applied to him for his release. This Jerom, it seems, had paid some attention to philosophical pursuits, which induced Bacon to think he might be prevailed upon to order his enlargement. With this view he addressed to him a treatise "on the means of avoiding the infirmities of old age." What effect this work had on the mind of his holiness is not clear; but it is certain Bacon did not obtain his object till towards the close of that pontiff's reign. He afterwards continued in the college of his order, where he died, in the year 1294, at the age of eighty, and was buried in the Franciscan church.

Among the number of those who have enlightened mankind by their genius and writings Bacon deserves to hold a predominant rank. Considering the age in which he lived, his knowledge was extraordinary. Many of the most useful and brilliant discoveries of modern times were, undoubtedly,
known

known to him. But what renders his name truly venerable, is his contempt of prejudice, and his just and liberal views of scientific research. Despising the fame and fortune of a magician, he wished only to promote the interests of learning, and extend the range of intellectual acquirement. In a more fortunate age, his fame might have rivalled the glory of a Locke or a Newton. It was his fate to be surrounded by bigotry and ignorance; yet he reached a degree of learning which cannot fail to command respect and gratitude to the latest era of human science.

ELISABETH ROWE was the daughter of Mr. Walter Singer, a dissenting clergyman, who possessed a small family estate in the neighbourhood of Frome. From this place he removed to Ilchester, in which place he had been imprisoned for preaching, but was very kindly treated by a great proportion of the inhabitants. Here he soon after married, and our authoress was the sole fruit of his connubial love. She was born on the eleventh of September, in the year 1674. Her early years were marked by an ardent attachment to poetry, for which elegant art she showed no contemptible genius, while yet extremely young. To poetry she added the accomplishments of music and painting. She also received some instructions in the French and Italian languages from the Hon. Mr. Thynne. Her fame was not long confined to Ilchester: she was soon invited to London, where "the pious, the poetic, and the polite," united to do her honour. She is said to have been much admired, and even loved, by Prior; but she gave her hand and affections to Mr. Thomas Rowe, who, unhappily, died soon after, in the year 1715. His wife evinced the tender regard she entertained for him, by a beautiful ode to his memory. She then bade a willing adieu to London, and settled at Frome, where she continued to live in retirement and widowhood, occupied only in writing those literary productions which have given her deserved celebrity. Her death, which was occasioned by an apoplexy, took place on the twentieth of February, 1737.

Mrs.

Mrs. Rowe, besides those high mental accomplishments which have handed down her name to posterity, was possessed of a very great share of personal attractions. Her figure was light and elegant; her complexion fair; her eyes of a dark grey, inclining to blue, and sparkling with intelligence; her voice was sweet and harmonious; her manners gentle and engaging: in short, every quality which can excite love, or ensure esteem, every virtue of the heart, and every embellishment of mind, were united in that truly amiable woman. Her works, published during her life, were, "Poems on several Occasions, by Philomela;" "Friendship in Death, in Twenty Letters from the Dead to the Living;" "Letters, Moral and Entertaining;" and "The History of Joseph." Her "Devout Exercises of the Heart, in Meditation and Soliloquy, Praise and Prayer," were published, after her death, by the learned and pious Dr. Watts.*

Yeovilton is the name of a parish and village, situated at a short distance to the east of Ilchester, in the hundred of Somerton. Its name is derived from the river Yeo, or Ivel, which bounds the parish on the side of Limington. In Saxon it was called *Geveltone*, the letter G, in that language, being often used to answer for Y. It has two tythings, that of Yeovilton and Speckington.

The manor of Yeovilton belonged to William *de Ow*, or *Auco*, in the reign of William the Conqueror. In 1093 he supported the claims of William Rufus to the English crown; but soon after proving a traitor to that cause, he lost his life and his fortune together. Some of his lands were afterwards restored to his successors; but Yeovilton does not appear to have been among the number; at least, in the time of Henry the Second, it was the property of Hugh Fitz-Richard,† whose family afterwards adopted the name of Yeovilton. In the reign of Henry the Sixth, Yeovilton was held by William de Botreaux, who left
a will,

* See Memoirs of Mrs. Rowe; Gibbon's Pious Women; Hay's Female Biography; and Noble's Continuation of Granger.

† Rot. Pip. 23 Hen. II.

a will, devising this manor to the prior and convent of St. Peter's, at Bath, to celebrate mass for the good estate of the King, Queen Margaret, and Edward Prince of Wales, as well as for himself and his lady, in this world, and their souls after death. The style of this will is somewhat curious. One clause of it runs thus:—"Each priest, monk, or secular, saying mass weekly, shall toll a bell in that monastery thrice (the said bell to be called *Botreaux bell*) and at the introite of the mass shall say, with a loud voice, 'ye shall pray for the good estate of our sovereign lord, King Henry the Sixth, and of our sovereign lady, the Queen, and of Prince Edward; and of William Lord Botreaux, and Margaret his wife, while they live, and for their souls after they be departed out of this world; and for the soul of Elisabeth, late the wife of the said William Lord Botreaux; and for his fader's soul and his modyr's soul, and his grand-fader's soul and his grandam's; and for all the souls, the said lord will assign them, to pray for in writing; and for all his ancestors' souls, and christen souls *pater noster* thrice, and *ave-maria*, with this psalm, *de profundis clamavi*, &c. with a low voice.'"*

The church of Yeovilton has only a single aisle, and has a well-built tower at the west end, containing five bells. It is dedicated to St. Bartholomew, and seems to have been built by Bishop Beckington, his arms being painted on the west window. The living is rectorial in the deanery of Ilchester. The patronage belongs to the bishop of Bath and Wells. The monuments in this church, which are very few, do not deserve particular notice.

YEOVIL

is a large and populous town, situated in the hundred of Stone and Yeovil, on the great western road from London to Exeter, about four miles from Ilchester. It derived its name, like Yeovilton,

* Dugd. Bar. I. 630.

Yeovilton, from the river Yeo, or Ivel, which rises near Sherbourne, from seven springs, called the *Sisters*, and passes, at this place, under a stone bridge, of three arches, which separates the counties of Somerset and Dorset. This river was called *Velox* by Ravenna.*

It is probable that Yeovil was a town in the time of the Romans, as many coins of that people, and remains of tessellated pavements have been found here. It is a borough and market town, governed by a portreve and eleven burgesses, "is privileged with greate libertes, and keepethe courts for deciding of suts."† The portreve, who is a magistrate for the time being, is chosen annually from among the burgesses. Besides these officers, there are also a mace-bearer, and two constables for the town, and two more for the parish, which is distinct from the borough. The town seal is very ancient, and is charged with the figure of St. John, the disciple of our Saviour, holding the holy Lamb, situated under a canopy, between two roses, with this inscription around it:—"Sigellum communitatis ville de Gevel factum in honore Sci Johis."

Mr. Collinson tells us he had in his possession, at the time he wrote his history of Somerset, a town piece of Yeovil, having on the one side the initials, "E. R." underneath a crown, and this legend, "THE BOROUGH OF YEOVIL:" on the reverse, "MADE BY THE PORTREVE, 1669."

There is a good market-house in this town, seventy feet long and twenty wide, supported by stone pillars, in the middle of which are the remains of an ancient cross. The market day is Friday. Great quantities of corn, cattle, pigs, butter, cheese, and flax, are sold here. The fairs are on the sixteenth of November and the twenty-eighth of June, and continue two days each time. It was formerly considerable for its woollen trade, which has much decreased, and, indeed, the chief support of the town now is its manufacture of leather gloves.

The

* Anonymi. Raven. Britan. Chorographia. Collinson, III. p. 203.

† E. Registro Thomæ Bekington.

The town of Yeovil consists of upwards of twenty streets and lanes ; some of the former are wide and open. The houses are in general good, and many of them built of stone. It has an alms-house for one master, two wardens, and twelve poor people of either sex, founded by John London Woburne, minor canon of St. Paul's, in the year 1476, who afterwards endowed it with a considerable extent of landed property, and built a chapel for the use of its poor, in which he ordained divine service to be performed every day.

The church of Yeovil is a handsome old Gothic building, dedicated to St. John the Baptist. It consists of a nave, a large chancel, north and side aisles, and transept, all of which are covered with lead. The length of the whole is one hundred and forty-six feet, and its breadth fifty; the transept measures eighty feet. At the west end of this church there is a large plain tower, ninety feet high, having a stone balustrade at the top. It contains a clock, and six very fine bells. In the centre of the church there hangs an elegant chandelier, the gift of Mr. Edward Barcher, tobacconist, in 1724. The altar-piece is extremely handsome; it forms a rich portico, supported by beautiful fluted pillars, surmounted by Corinthian capitals, with a rich entablature. The whole is divided into square compartments, adorned with roses and cherubs, very neatly gilt and arranged. In the middle there is a "transparent glory," encircled with clouds. The seats and desks belonging to the singing men of the different chantries still remain in the chancel; hence the church is sometimes called by the inhabitants a quarter-choir. The churchyard is large, and contains many old tombs and grave-stones, most of which are entirely defaced. The advowson of this church belongs to the lord of the manor. Besides the church, there were formerly several chapels in this neighbourhood; but these are now entirely demolished, and their tythings transferred to the vicar of Yeovil. There are several dissenting chapels: a new one for the unitarians was recently built.

The

The country around this town is extremely pleasing, being beautifully diversified with high and low grounds, both in a state of high cultivation. The soil is of a sandy loam. Near the town is a pool, the water of which is of a green colour, owing, it is supposed, to some latent veins of vitriol in the adjoining hills.* There is also a chalybeate spring here, which is considered as more highly mineralized than most others of a similar kind.

MILBORNE PORT

is a borough and parish, in the hundred of Horethorne, situated on a branch of the river Parret. It consists of four streets, and contains nine hundred and fifty-three inhabitants. The principal street, called High Street, is tolerably wide, but irregularly built. Here stands the *Town Well*, which supplies all the inhabitants. In this street is also the Guild-hall, a very ancient building, having a door-case, partly of Saxon and partly of Norman architecture. It had formerly a market-place, now converted into warehouses. Its manufactures of woollen, linen, and hosiery, are very considerable. London, Bath, Bristol, and Exeter, are the principal mart for their goods.

Previous to the conquest, the town of Milborne Port was one of the most noted in this part of the county. Its name is derived from the Saxon words myll or mylen, a mill, and burn, a torrent. The addition of port, arose from its being an incorporated place, that word signifying a borough in the same language. After the conquest it became of much less importance, though it still retained its former privileges, till the reign of Edward the First, from whose time, till that of Charles the First, it ceased to send members to parliament. It has now two representatives, who are chosen by the capital bailiffs and their deputies, the commonalty's steward, and the

* Collinson, III. p. 204.

the inhabitants paying scot and lot. In that part of the parish called *Kingbury*, there is an annual court-baron held, in which presentments are made, rents paid, and the officers of the parish chosen. The parochial assessments of this district are distinct from the borough, and it has officers peculiar to itself.

The church of Milborne Port is a good building, dedicated to St. John the Evangelist. Its structure is very ancient, and in the form of a cross. It is surmounted by a large tower, of quadrangular form, supported by two pointed and two semicircular arches. It contains a chime of six bells. The patronage of this church has been held by the fellows of Winchester College since the dissolution of the abbey of Cirencester, to which it previously belonged, by grant of King Henry the First.

In the north aisle there are several neat monuments, in honour of the Medlycot family. The chancel has also several, in memory of the family of Mr. Noake. In the churchyard there are a few old tomb-stones, but none of them deserve particular notice.

Milborne Port has also dissenting meeting-houses.

In a garden adjoining the churchyard, upon opening ground with a view to building, sixty bodies, of men, women, and children, were found, regularly arranged in three rows. It was supposed they had been buried there during the great plague, as no traces of coffins could be discovered.

At the time of the civil war, Cromwell's soldiers occupied this town for a considerable time. During that period, they thought proper to rob the church of its Bible; but they had soon cause to repent of the sacrilege, for the inhabitants, armed with quarter-staffs, attacked them with such fury, that they were obliged to seek shelter in flight, after having been forced to restore the sacred volume.

The manufactures of Milborne Port are dowlas, ticking, linsey, stockings, and shoes, which employ a great number of hands.

CREWKERNE

is a market town and parish, comprehended in a hundred of the same name. It is pleasantly situated in a valley, watered by branches of the rivers Parret and Axe, and sheltered by cultivated hills, which command beautiful and extensive prospects. Its name signifies, in Saxon, the Cottage of the Cross. A very neat structure of this description, environed by slender pillars, stood here in the time of Leland.* In early times it was a royal manor, and endowed with many privileges.†

This town consists chiefly of five streets, containing about 500 houses, and nearly 3000 inhabitants, of whom about 500 at the last census were employed in the manufacture of sailcloth, stockings, and dowlas. It has a pretty large market-house, which is very centrally situated. The market is held on Saturdays, and is always plentifully supplied with provisions of every description. Its fair takes place on the fourth of September, when great quantities of cheese, linen, and pedlary, are disposed of.

The church of Crewkerne is a fine ancient Gothic structure, in the form of a cross. In the centre of it rises a handsome lofty embattled tower, surmounted by small turrets. The whole of this church, and the windows in particular, are richly ornamented with carved work. In the inside are four lofty pillars, which support the tower. Behind the communion table is a small room, used as a confessional in the days of popery. To this room there are two doors, one on each side of the table: over that on the right hand, at which the penitents entered, the figures of two swine are carved out, intended to denote the impure state of the devotees before confession: over the other, by which they came out, are represented two images, emblematical of their purity after receiving absolution.

In the churchyard there are a few mural monuments, of stone
or

* *Lel. V. II. p. 55.*

† *Domesday Book.*

or marble, with inscriptions. Some of the latter are by way of acrostics. This kind of letter wit seems to be their chief merit; and as much, probably, as those they commemorate had a right to expect.

This church, in the time of William the Conqueror, belonged to the abbey of St. Stephen, in Caen, and formed part of the diocese of Bayeux, in Normandy. The parsonage is now an impropriation belonging to the church of Winchester. The living is a curacy.

Crewkerne has two charity-schools, one of which, founded in early times, and afterward liberally endowed by Dr. Hody, is in a very flourishing condition.* It has likewise two almshouses.

The property of this parish belonged to the family of Redvers during the reign of Henry the Second. From them it passed into the family of the Courtneys. It is now in the possession of Earl Poulett, as the descendant of Sir Amias Poulett, who purchased it about the year 1570 or 1580.†

To the west of Crewkerne, on the road towards Chard, is a hill, called *Rana Hill*, on which there was formerly a chapel, dedicated to St. Ranus, which contained his bones. Not far from hence, at a place called *Hasilborough*, lived Wulfric, a celebrated saint, hermit, and prophet, born at Compton, in this county. His raiment was made of iron, and he indulged all the austerities of an eremitical life. His residence was a small cell, at which he was visited by a number of distinguished personages, among whom were the Kings Stephen and Henry the First. He died at an advanced age, in the year 1154, and was buried in the church aisle of Hasilborough, where his tomb continued to be visited by pilgrims for many ages.‡

About three miles from hence is a small village, called *East Chinnock*, near which there is a salt spring, supposed to be the

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strongest

* Gibson. Gough's Camden, I. p. 94.

† Sir W. Pole's Survey.

‡ Leland's Collectanea, II. 445.

strongest in this country. A short distance from this spring is a manufactory for making salt.

Hinton St. George is a parish situated about three miles to the north-west of Crewkerne. It was anciently the property of the Pownel family, from whom it passed, by marriage, into that of Deneband. After many successions in the male line, it became the property of Sir William Poulett, Knight, who married Elisabeth, daughter and heiress of John Deneband. It now belongs to Earl Poulett, the noble descendant of Sir William.*

The church of Hinton consists of a nave, chancel, and side ailes. At the west end of it is a well-built tower, containing five bells. The north aile, or chapel, is the property of Earl Poulett, and contains several monuments of that family. Under the arch which separates this chapel from the chancel, there is a large stone monument, with the effigies of Anthony and Catharine Poulett reclining upon it, and ten of their children, in a kneeling posture, carved on its sides. The inscriptions are:—

Hic jacet Antonius Poulet, miles et dux insulæ Jersey, qui obiit 22 die Julii, Anno Dñi 1600. Hic jacet Dña Katherina Poulet uxor Antonii Poulet militis, filia unica Henrici Dñi Norris, Baronis de Rycot, qui obiit 24 die Martii Anno Dñi 1601.

On the north wall of the chapel are two monuments, on each of which are the effigies of a knight in armour, and his lady. At the east end of it is a very stately monument, to the memory of John Lord Poulett, first baron of Hinton St. George, and John Lord Poulett, his successor. On the north side of the nave, another of the family lies in effigy, on an ancient tomb of stone. The same side is also adorned with a very neat monument of white marble, erected by her sister, Lady Susan, to the memory of Rebecca, youngest daughter of Earl Poulett, who died on the second day of March, 1765.

The

* Sir W. Pole's MS. Collinson. II. 166.

The views from different parts of this parish are extremely beautiful, and very extensive. At the fourth mile-stone, on the road from Chard to Crewkerne, both the north and south seas are distinctly visible. It is also finely watered by several rivulets.

On the south of this parish stands the house of Hinton St. George, the family seat of Earl Poulett. It is a large and magnificent building, surrounded by elegant parks and noble woods. One part of the plantations, situated on an eminence, commands delightful prospects over the greater part of the county.

CHARD

is a market-town, situated in the hundred of Kingsbury-East. It seems to have been of some importance in very ancient times. The Saxons called it *Cerdre*: hence some are of opinion that it derived its name from Cerdic, so famous in history for his military exploits against the native Britons.

This town stands near the southern extremity of the county, and is built on the highest spot of ground between the north and south seas. This appears not only from the view, but also from the circumstance of the stream which rises from a spring at the west end of the principal street, being easily turned so as to run either into the Severn or the English Channel. It consists chiefly of two streets, intersecting each other, and a row of houses called *Crow Lane*. The houses are generally well built and commodious. Their number was computed to be about 534, and that of the inhabitants at 2784, of whom 1286 were employed in trade and manufactures. At the intersection of the two streets stands an ancient Gothic building, which was formerly a chapel, but is now used as a town-hall. The market-house, situated in one of these streets, was the assize-hall before the time of Edward the Third, when its privileges, as a borough, were either taken away or neglected, on account of some public dispute. The town is now governed by a portreve

and two bailiffs, who are annually chosen, at a court leet, from among the burgesses.

The market is held here on Monday. It is said to be the largest in England for potatoes. The range of shambles is very extensive; they are covered with a tile roof, supported by brick pillars.

There is an hospital in this town for the benefit of old infirm parishioners. It was endowed, many years ago, by a Mr. Harvey, with two very considerable estates. The government of it is vested in the hands of the portreve *ex officio*. Here is also a work-house.

The church is a handsome building, one hundred and twenty feet in length, and forty-six in breadth. It consists of a nave, chancel, two aisles, and a north and south transept. At the west end of it is a tower, containing a clock and eight bells. The north-east corner of the south transept is adorned with a splendid antique mural monument, built of various kinds of marble and porphyry. In the middle of this monument there is a double recess, under which are the effigies of William Brewer and his wife, to whose memory it was erected. These figures are represented as dressed in black robes, and large ruffs, and kneeling, with their faces towards each other, at an altar, on which both their hands are placed in a suppliant posture. Behind the man are his six sons, and behind the wife her five daughters, all dressed in the same habits, and kneeling in a similar manner. On each side of this recess is a round pillar, with a gilt Corinthian capital. These support the cornice, at the corners of which obelisks are placed. Between them are the figures of two angels, with golden hair, one holding a dolphin, and the other a dove and a palm branch, and reclining with their heads towards each other, on a divided semicircular pediment. In the interval are the arms: *gules*, two bends wavy, *or*. Underneath is an inscription:—

“ Here lieth interred (expecting their Saviour) the bodies of William Brewer, of Chard. phisitian, and Deanes his wife, who living forty years
together

together in happy wedlock, in full age departed this life; shee dying 8 Nov. 1714, and hee 24^o July, 1618, having issue only six sons and five daughters, all men and women growne, and all comforts to them.

LECTORI.

“ Mourn not for us, whom death translates to glory,
 But for thyself, whose life's a dying storie;
 Gazers, muse not, now you these stones behold,
 Viewing these sable lines, inset with gold;
 Its not to keep alive the memorie
 Of those whose ashes heere interred lyee,
 Whose godlye lives yet live, and shall for aye,
 When these hard stones are moulder'd quite away;
 Their children's zeale well weighing parents' care,
 And christian love to all while breathing ayre,
 With grateful harts most thankfully erect,
 Unto their ashes dear, this monument.”

Besides this there are two handsome monuments, one in the south corner of the south transept, and the other in the north aisle. The former, which is of black marble, is in honour of John Lane, Gentleman, many years quarter-master of his majesty's own regiment of horse, who died the twenty-fourth day of January, 1767. The latter, built of white and grey marble, is sacred to the memory of John Eveleigh, of Crim-Card, Esq. who died the twenty-sixth day of April, 1767.

The town of Chard is famous in the history of the sixteenth century, as being the place where the royalists were defeated, under the conduct of Colonel Penrudock. Here also they proclaimed the king in person.

JOHN SANDFORD, an eminent divine and author, of the sixteenth century, was born in this town. He was much famed for his knowledge both of the ancient and modern languages. Some specimens of his Latin poetry are still extant, and do him considerable honour.*

SIR-SIMON EVERY so much celebrated for his sufferings, and attachment to Charles the First, was also a native of Chard.

L 1 4

North-

* A. Wood's *Athenæ Oxon.* I. 540.

North-west from Chard is *Combe St. Nicholas*, a very large parish divided into four tythings. In this parish is the village of *Waston*, which, tradition informs us, was anciently a celebrated nunnery.

The church is a large handsome building, and consists of a nave, chancel, and two ailes. It has also a square embattled tower, containing five bells, at the west end. It is a vicarage in the deanery of Crewkerne, and in the gift of the dean of Wells.

ILMINSTER,

a town and parish, situated in the hundred of Abdick and Bul-ton, was of some note previous to the Norman conquest. Its name is Saxon, and signifies the church upon the river Ile. The houses exceed 350 in number, and the inhabitants amount to nearly 1300. These are chiefly employed in the manufacture of narrow cloths, and in agriculture.

The situation of Ilminster is low, but extremely healthy. The town consists of two streets, intersecting each other, one of which is nearly a mile in length. Many of the houses are good stone or brick buildings, but the greater part of them are formed from old walls, and covered with thatch. In the centre of the town stands a new-built market-house and shambles. The market is held on Saturday, a privilege it has retained ever since the time of the Saxons. The cloth manufacture formerly flourished here to a very great degree: it is now much decreased, but is still considerable.

The church is a fine Gothic building, according to Browne Willis, dedicated to St. Mary, but some think to St. Bartholomew, because of the fair being held here on the last Wednesday of August. This structure is in the form of a cross, and is one hundred and twenty feet long and fifty wide. It consists of a nave, chancel, transept, north and south ailes, and a porch. In the centre rises a handsome quadrangular tower, surmounted

surmounted by twelve pinnacles, and containing a clock, chime, and five bells. At the east end of the church is a small vestry-room, which was formerly a chantry chapel. The living is a peculiar. It anciently belonged to the abbots of Muchelney. The advowson of the vicarage has, ever since the dissolution, been appendant to the manor.*

In the north transept of this church is an ancient tomb, erected to the memory of Nicholas Wadham and his wife, who founded Wadham College, at Oxford. It is partly built of marble and partly of stone. On the upper surface are their portraitures in brass. In the mouth of Nicholas there is a label, inscribed thus:—"Death is unto me advantage." In the mouth of Dorothy, his wife, is this scroll:—"I will not dye but lyve, and declare the work of the Lord." At their feet are the following inscriptions:—

"Here lyeth interred the body of Nicholas Wadham, whyles he lyved of Merefield, in the county of Somerset, Esquier, founder of Wadham College, in Oxforde, who depected this life the xx day of Octobo. 1609."

"Here lyeth also the body of Dorothie Wadham, wife of Nicholas Wadham, Esquier, foundresse of Wadham College, in Oxforde, who died the 16th of May, 1618, in the year of age 84."

At the back of this tomb is an elegant marble monument, of Corinthian architecture, upon which there is a long Latin inscription, in honour of the said Nicholas and Elisabeth Wadham. It was renewed by Sir Edward Wyndham and Thomas Strangways, Esq. their heirs, in the year 1639.

The same transept also contains an ancient tomb of free-stone, ornamented with fruit, fruit foliage, and antique sculpture. It is covered with black and white speckled marble entablature, on which are represented the portraitures of a man and woman, standing under an ornamented canopy. The man is in armour, spurred, and trampling upon a lion couchant. The lady is in black, and veiled. Under each of them is a brass plate, containing

* Collinson, I. 7.

taining a monkish legend, but so much defaced as to be illegible. The greater part of the inscriptions on this monument are obliterated. From what remains, we can only discover it to be the burying-place of one of the Wadham family.

In the southern transept is a very handsome marble monument, with the following inscription :—

“ HIC JACET HUMFREDUS WALDROND SUE PULVERIS UMBRA
MARCESCENS, ÆVO SED PIETATE VIRENS.
CLERICVS AD ROBAS COIVDICIS ORDINE FVNCTVS
MVNERE VIR DIGNVS, MVNERA DIGNA VIRO.
AVG. XVII. MDLXXX.

The arms are quarterly: 1. *Argent*, three bull's heads cabossed *sable*, attired or. 2. *Argent*, on a bor *sable*, three cross crosslets fitchés or. 3. *Sable*, six fishes haurient. 3, 2, 1. *Argent*. 4. Speke.

In this town there is an excellent free-school, founded, in the year 1550, by Humphrey Waldron and Henry Greenfield, Esquires, and endowed by them with considerable property, both in houses and lands. The revenues of this school have greatly increased by the good management of its trustees, who have, at different times, added large purchases to its former possessions. This school has a writing master and a reading mistress, besides the superintending master.

RICHARD SAMWAIES, a learned divine, and a great sufferer during the parliamentary rebellion, was a native of this place. His father was vicar of Ilminster, and much esteemed for his piety. In 1638 he was elected fellow of Corpus Christi College, in Oxford, from which he was ejected in 1648 by the parliamentary commissioners. He was afterwards restored, however, and promoted to the rectory of Meysey Hampton, in the county of Gloucester, where he died in 1669, and was buried in the chancel of the church. He wrote several treatises, among which is a work entitled, “ England's faithful Reprover and Monitor.” It was published in 1653.

TAUNTON

TAUNTON

is a town, situated in the hundred of Taunton Dean. It was anciently called Thouodunum, or the town of the river Tone, by which it is watered. The number of its inhabitants were estimated at 5794. The woollen manufacture flourished here soon after its first introduction into England by the memorable John Kemp, from Flanders. For many years, however, it has been on the decline; the silk trade occupying a great portion of the inhabitants.

Taunton is an ancient borough by prescription; but its rights were confirmed by a charter at a very early period. In the reign of Charles the Second it was deprived of its charter by that prince, on account of its adherence to the parliament during the reign of his father. He restored its privileges, however, about seventeen years thereafter. It now consists of a mayor, a recorder, a justice of the peace, two aldermen, twenty-four capital burgesses, a town clerk, two constables, two port-reves, and two serjeants at mace. Besides these magistrates, there are six gentlemen, justices of the peace at large, with powers to act within the borough. The mayor and aldermen are elected annually from among the burgesses. It is a curious fact, that the officers of the borough have no power to arrest. Indeed there is no prison in this town of any description, except a Bridewell for vagrants. All debtors and criminals are sent to the gaols at Wilton and Ilchester. This corporation, though the town is extremely flourishing, is the meanest, perhaps, in England. It has neither lands, houses, nor joint stock of money; the last charter precluding them from any such possessions.

Taunton sends two members to parliament, who are elected by such of the inhabitants, residing within the borough, as are *potvellers*, and do not receive alms or charity. Their number

is

is reckoned to be about five hundred. The legal returning officers of this borough are the bailiffs, elected at the annual court leet, as was decided by a committee of the House of Commons, on the third day of May, 1803.

The town of Taunton has ever been regarded as one of the principal in this county. Even before the modern improvements, it was considered as well built. Its streets are wide and airy, extending over a considerable portion of ground. The houses have, for the most part, small gardens in front, which add much to their beauty and healthiness, as well as the convenience, of the inhabitants. The country around Taunton is the most delightful imaginable. The fertility of its soil, and the temperature of its climate, are greatly boasted of by the peasantry; indeed, so much so, that it is become proverbial to say, "where should I be born else but in Taunton Dean?" that is, the *Vale of Taunton*. Dr. Thomas Amory, a native of this town, has given a description of its situation and advantages in a poem, published in 1724, which, whatever may be its poetical merit, seems to us so just, as to be worthy of quotation.

"Hail, native town, with cheerful plenty bless'd,
Of numerous hands and thriving trade possess'd,
Whose poor might live, from biting want secure,
Did not resistless ale their hearts allure;
Round thee in spring, we view with ravish'd eyes,
Italian scenes on English ground arise,
Which, crown'd with freedom, rival paradise.
The enamell'd meads with vast profusion show,
The various colours of the heavenly bow;
The fattening Tone in slow meanders moves,
Loath to forsake the happy land it loves;
Forc'd to the main by nature's law, it bears
Back floating vessels fraught with richest wares;
And differing products from earth's differing shores,
Gather'd by commerce, lavish on us pours.
Upon its borders herds unnumber'd graze,
With sheep whose fleeces Persian silk surpass;

Nor

Nor prowling wolves, nor hungry lions fear,
Which other flocks on other pastures tear ;
Tall bushy trees o'er all the regions found,
With cooling shades refresh the fertile ground ;
Beneath whose coverts beauteous females stray,
Fresh, artless, gentle, innocently, gay,
And pass with flattering swains the sportful hours away ;
Sighing, they listen to their amorous tale,
Nor fear lest wily snakes their steps assail ;
Gay painted blossoms smile on lower trees,
With promised nectar thirsty palates please ;
And with their vernal sweets perfume the breeze,
While warbling birds melodious notes employ,
At once exalt, and tell, the shepherd's joy.
There fruitful hillocks swell amidst the plain,
In verdure clad, and rich in future gain ;
Adown whose sides the murmuring torrents roll,
And charm the muse to bless the poet's soul ;
And all around proud guardian hills ascend,
Whose heights from winds inclement well defend ;
Whose bowels unknown stores of minerals hold,
Which poverty disarm, and chase the invading cold ;
But I unequal tempt the arduous toil ;
Large as thy vales and generous as thy soil,
The verse should be, which would thy praise proclaim,
In numbers worthy of the matchless theme.

Taunton is undoubtedly a town of great antiquity. In the year 1666, two large earthen pitchers, full of Roman coins, were found in a ploughed field in this neighbourhood, supposed to have been buried there when that people were compelled to relinquish their conquests in Britain. Some years previous to that date there were also found a number of Roman coins, and other antiquities, in the foundations of an old house, which stood near the castle. Within these last eighty years another Roman piece was discovered, when pulling down a house, in the parish of St. James. It was of the size of a farthing, having the head of Vespasian upon one side, with this inscription—
VESP. AUG. IMP. On the other was a female captive, having
ing

ing her hands bound behind her, to a palm-tree. The legend was JUDEA CAPTA, and, in the exergue, S. C. These circumstances have led several antiquaries to suppose this town to have been a Roman station.*

But whatever may have been the condition of Taunton in these very early periods, it is certain, that it was a place of great note in the time of the Saxons. Ina, king of the West Saxons, so famous for his religious zeal and munificence, built a castle here, so early as the year 700, and made it, for some time at least, the place of his residence. Here, it is said, he held the first great council of his kingdom, and here was framed, by their assistance, that code of laws which gave him so great reputation as a legislator. This castle was destroyed in the year 722, by his queen Ethelburga, who prevailed on him to resign his crown to her brother, Ethelard, and retire to a monastery, at Rome, where he died. The queen also renounced the world, and became a nun in the abbey of Barking, of which she was soon after elected abbess, and continued in that situation till her death.† The castle remained in its demolished condition till the conquest, when it was rebuilt by one of the bishops of Winchester, to which see the property of the manor of Taunton had been annexed, according to Dugdale, by Fritheswitha, or Frithogotha, the wife of Ethelard; but as others assert, by Emma, queen to Ethelred the Second. This castle afterwards underwent many alterations and repairs, by the succeeding bishops of Winchester. It is now converted to various uses.

The old building was one hundred and ninety-five feet in front, and had a circular tower at each end, but only one of them now remains. In the place of that demolished, a large house was erected many years ago. It was long used as a boarding-school for young ladies. The west wing is tolerably entire, though supposed to be part of the original building by king Ina.

The principal part of the castle, as formerly laid out, was the
great

* Toulman's Hist. of Taunton, p. 5. † Hollingshed's Chron. I. 127. folio.

great hall, which is one hundred and nineteen feet and a half long, by thirty feet and a half broad, and twenty feet five inches high. It is now the place in which the Lent assizes, the county sessions, and the courts of the bishops of Winchester, are held. The date on the porch is, 1577, supposed to allude to one of the periods at which it was repaired. The arms are those of the bishop of Winchester.

Over the two arches of the inner gateway was a room, formerly used as a grand jury room. On the inside of the embattled gateway, as well as without, is a shield between four roses, with a cross charged with five roses, and on each side the date 1496. The inscription is mostly defaced, but we can still perceive the words—*Laus tibi Christe. Langto Winto.* Above these are the arms of Henry the Seventh, supported on the right side by a greyhound, and on the left by a wivern. The motto is—*Vive le Roi Henri.* The arms and date on the left hand of these are the same as on the porch of the hall, with the addition of the letters R. H. for Robert Horn, one of the bishops of Winchester. Hence we conclude, that he was the person who repaired the great hall, and bishop Langton the archway and grand jury room.

Besides these apartments, there are in this castle an exchequer room, where the records of Taunton Dean lands are kept, a large hall, formerly used as an assembly room, sometimes for a theatre, an armoury, a dungeon, and various other purposes. There are also the ruins of several other apartments, which have been occupied as dwelling-houses.

The assize hall, and some other parts of this building, were repaired, and elegantly fitted up, in the end of the last century, by Sir Benjamin Hamett, member for the borough, whose exertions for the benefit of Taunton deserve the gratitude of its inhabitants. This gentleman, at his own expence, filled up the moat, and laid out the ground around the castle. He also converted many parts of the ruins into habitable mansions.

In the centre of this town there is a handsome and commodious

dious market-house, with several apartments in it for different purposes. In the lower part, besides the town-hall, there is a coffee-room, furnished with the newspapers, and other periodical publications, for the use of which gentlemen pay a certain annual subscription. On the first floor there is an elegant assembly-room, fifty feet long and thirty wide, in which hang two superb glass chandeliers, presented to the fashionables of Taunton, by the late Colonel Cox, when representative for the county. In the upper floor is a handsome room, supplied with a billiard-table.

On each side of this house is a large wing, or arcade, for the accommodation of the farmers and tradesmen. In front is a spacious area, on which are erected moveable shambles, placed in rows, for the use of the butchers. This area is enclosed by chain posts. In the middle of it, to the north, is a noble pavement, of broad stones, two hundred and sixteen feet in length, and eighteen broad, which is called the Parade.*

The free grammar-school of this town was founded, in the reign of Henry the Seventh, by Richard Rose, bishop of Winchester. The building itself is very large and strong. Adjoining to it is a house for the master. This school was liberally endowed about the year 1553, by William Walbec, and William Pool, of Colyford, Esquires, with lands and tenements, situated in the county of Dorset.

Taunton has two alms-houses. The largest of them, which stands in that part of the town called Eastgate, was founded by Robert Gray, Esq. whose arms, as well as those of the merchant-taylor's company, of which he was a member, are placed in front of the house. The same gentleman also bequeathed a considerable sum of money, to be laid out in lands, for the benefit of this charity. Besides a chapel and school, there are, in this alms-house, seventeen separate apartments, having small gardens appended to each. The institution supports, in all, a reader or master, eight poor men, and ten poor women. The
master

* Toulman's Hist. of Taunton, 183.

master is, besides, bound to teach ten poor children to read and write. On a stone in front of the house is the following inscription, in memory of the commencement of this institution, and the original design of its benevolent founder :

“ *Laus Deo.* This charitable work is founded by Robert Graye, of the Citie, of London, Esquier, borne in this towne, in the house adjoining hereunto, who, in his life time, doth erect it for ten poore aged syngle women, and for their competent livelihood, and daylie prayers in the same, provided sufficient maintenance for the same. 1635.”

The other alms-house is situated on the north side of Hammet Street. It is a large well-built house, containing a chapel, and thirteen separate rooms, for the accommodation of as many poor men, who have been brought up to some manual occupation, and have maintained a good character for honesty and sobriety. One of their number, who can read and write, is always chosen president, or reader. The government is in the hands of twenty-two governors, who must all be gentlemen resident in Taunton, or within twelve miles of it.

Besides these alms-houses, there were several others; but none of them being endowed, they have no longer any inhabitants. There are also two work-houses here, one near the church of St. Mary Magdalen, and the other in East Street, in which a considerable number of poor are supported.

There is one more edifice yet in Taunton appropriated to a charitable purpose. It is an hospital, perhaps, in point of plan in building, the first in the county of Somerset. It is a square building, ninety feet on each side, and having semicircular entrances, leading to a suit of rooms, and meeting in an open circular court in the centre of the building. The different floors are divided into apartments suitable to the object of the institution, which is the reception and benefit of the diseased. This structure stands on a most delightful eminence, at a short distance from the town.

The Bridewell in Taunton is situated at the Tone bridge, and

the site of the former Bridewell. It was built, at his own expence, by Sir Benjamin Hammet. The building is plain, but strong, and well adapted for its purpose. Adjoining to it is a house for the gaoler.

We come now to the religious institutions at Taunton. At an early period, there was a priory of black canons founded here, by William Giffard, bishop of Winchester. It was situated on the north side of the town, without the east gate, about sixty yards from the spot on which the farm-house now called the Priory stands. Adjoining to this place, called Canon Street, where there have been discovered, at different times, many ruins of large Gothic arches and carved stones.* The history of this monastery does not deserve particular notice. In the reign of Henry, the monastery of St. Augustine, at Stavordale, was united to it; but soon after burst that storm which involved all the religious houses in England in one common ruin. Besides this priory, there were several chapels and chantries in Taunton, all of which were dependent on the mother church in the convent, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul. Some say there were also a house for white friars here, and another for lepers, both of which, however, are entirely demolished.

The present churches in Taunton are two in number: one dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, and the other to St. James.

That of St. Mary Magdalen stands near the centre of the town, and is a very elegant and splendid building. Its architecture is in the style of the florid Gothic, which induces many to think it was founded by Henry the Seventh, as were several other churches in Somerset, in token of his gratitude to the county, for their steady adherence to the house of Lancaster. This church is extremely spacious and beautiful, and has a lofty tower at one end of it, of truly magnificent workmanship. In this tower are thirteen windows, adorned with a variety of curious ornaments, which throw over it an air of
lightness

* Locke's MS. Toulman's Taunton, 15:

lightness and delicacy, without injuring the grandeur of its appearance. Round it there are a number of elegant canopies but the figures in them are entirely defaced. The other embellishments, such as lions, sphinxes, cherubs, and carved work, have also suffered considerably from the impression of time. It is surmounted by four stately pinnacles, also beautifully ornamented. The height of the whole is one hundred and fifty-three feet. From the ballustrades at the bottom of the pinnacles, you have a most delightful and extensive view of the adjacent country.

The inside of this church is not less worthy of attention than its exterior structure. The porch of the belfry, which forms the great entrance, is separated by a wainscot screen of elegant fret-work, in wood and iron, between the doors. At the end of it, on the inside, arise several neat Corinthian pilasters. The roof of the church is extremely curious, and is supported by twenty-four pillars; in four rows, which divide the whole into five aisles and a chancel. The two outside are in a different style of building from the others, and seem to have been erected at a later period. In the centre stands the desk and pulpit, beautifully adorned with carved work. In the middle aisle, on the pillars between the upper windows, are twelve niches, six on each side, richly ornamented. Underneath, in one of these pillars, is another niche of larger dimensions. The former are supposed to have been occupied with the images of the apostles, and the latter with that of the patron. There are no less than forty-four windows in this church, some of which still retain traces of ancient painting on the glass. It has also one of the finest organs in the county.*

In this church there are two handsome mural monuments; one of them in honour of Richard Huish, Esq. who founded the alms-house on the north of Hammet Street. The other is to the memory of Robert Gray, founder of the other alms-

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house,

* Toulman, 28.

house, whose effigy, in his sheriff's robes, is represented upon it. Beneath is this inscription :—

“ Taunton bore him, London bred him,
 Piety trained him, virtue led him,
 Earth enriched him, heaven caressed him,
 Taunton blest him, London blest him,
 This thankful town, that mindful city
 Share his piety and his pity ;
 What he gave, and how he gave it,
 Ask the poor, and you shall have it.
 Gentle reader, heaven may strike
 Thy tender heart to do the like ;
 And now thy eyes have read this story,
 Give him the praise and heav'n the glory.”

The church of St. James is a strong, plain, ancient building. At one end is a tower, with a good ring of five bells, but much inferior in every other respect to that of St. Mary Magdalen. Near the top are two niches filled with images, as some say, of Adam and Eve ; as others suppose, of St. John and St. James, or St. Peter, or St. Paul, who were the patron saints of the priory, and consequently of this church, which was dependent upon it. It seems to have been erected sometime in the thirteenth century.*

The dissenters have several meeting houses in this town. The oldest as well as the largest is called Paul's Meeting-House, from the street in which it is situated. This structure bears some resemblance, in the form of it, to the Roman capital T. In the front is an area of one hundred and twenty-two feet wide, planted with a row of lime-trees.

The next place of worship, belonging to the dissenters, we shall mention is, that called the 'New Meeting-House. It is situated in Tancred street, and was built in the year 1732. It owes its origin to an attempt made by the friends of Dr. Amory to fix him as assistant to Mr. Batson, clergyman of the old meeting

* Toulman's Taunton, 29.

meeting-house, which was opposed by the friends of the latter. In truth, that gentleman, notwithstanding his near approach to the grave, was unwilling to give up any share of his salary to another person.

Dr. Amory, moreover, avowed sentiments far from agreeing with the reputedly orthodox standard. His ideas were dignified and liberal. He taught the most exalted sentiments concerning the Deity, and he addressed his devotions to the one supreme God, the Creator and Father of all: an idea so magnificent, that it seems, if we may judge from the experience of ages, to require the most unlimited exercise of the reasoning powers to embrace and allow it.

A third structure belonging to dissenters is the chapel of the Baptists. It is a large, expensive, and handsome building, raised by the sole exertions of that sect. This chapel, including the walls, is fifty-four feet in length, and forty-nine feet in breadth. The roof is supported by two strong and curious pillars, of the Corinthian order. The pulpit and staircase are enriched with elegant carved work. The fronts of the galleries and pews are constructed of Flemish oak, which gives the whole a neat and handsome appearance. Only one family have been permitted to be buried within the church: an example we could wish to see more generally followed. It is furnished with handsome chandeliers, and a very rich service of plate, the bequest of Mr. Samuel Noble. Behind it is a commodious burying ground.

The octagon chapel next deserves to be noticed. It is situated in Middle-street, St. James's, and was built in 1778, under the direction of the Rev. Mr. Wesley. It is a neat building, about forty feet in diameter, and neatly fitted up. It has twelve very handsome windows, six of which are of a circular form. There is a curious time-piece in this chapel. In front of it is an extensive area, inclosed towards the street, with a large iron gate and palisades.

There is, besides these meeting-houses, a place of worship, appropriated to the devotions of the quakers. It is a neat

building, and kept extremely clean ; but is not very substantially built.

Taunton has undergone many material alterations and improvements, within these last twenty years, and the same spirit of useful embellishment still continues to pervade the minds of its inhabitants.

SAMUEL DANIEL, an eminent poet and historian, who flourished in the reigns of Elizabeth and James the First, was the son of a music-master, and born near Taunton, in 1562. In 1579, he was admitted a commoner of Magdalen college, in Oxford, where he continued three years, and made a considerable progress in academical learning ; but his genius inclining him more to studies of a softer and gayer kind, he left the university without a degree, and applied himself to poetry and history. Wood tells us, that at about twenty-three he translated into English the worthy tract, as he calls it, of Paul Jovius, containing “A Discourse of rare Inventions, both military and civil, called *Imprese* ;” which was printed in 1585, and to which he put an ingenious preface. His own merit, added to the recommendation of his brother-in-law, John Florio, so well known for his Italian dictionary, procured him the patronage of Anne, the consort of James the First, who made him one of the grooms of the privy-chamber. The queen took great pleasure in Daniel’s conversation ; and the encouragement he met with from the court, together with his own personal qualifications, easily introduced him to the most ingenious and learned men of his time ; such as Sir John Harrington, Camden, Sir Robert Cotton, Sir Henry Spelman, Spenser, Ben Jonson, Stradling, Owen, &c. He rented a small house and garden, in Old-street, London, where, in private, he composed most of his dramatic pieces. Afterwards he became tutor to the Lady Anne Clifford, who, when she came to be Countess of Pembroke, was a great encourager of learning and learned men ; and upon the death of the famous Spenser, was made poet-laureat to Queen Elizabeth. Towards the end of his life he retired

retired to a country farm, which he had at Beckington, near Philips-Norton, in this county; where, says Wood, after he had enjoyed the muses, and religious contemplation, for some time, with very great delight, he died in 1619. He was buried in the church of Beckington. The poetical works of this author consisted of dramatic and other pieces, which were all published together, in two volumes, 12mo. 1718. He also wrote a pamphlet in defence of Rhyme, which was afterwards published along with his poetical works. But his principal work was a history of England, in three books, printed in 1613, 4to. and reaching to the end of Stephen's reign. To this he afterwards added a second part, which was printed in 1618, and reached to the end of Edward the Third. This history was continued to the end of Richard the Third, by John Trussel, a trader, and alderman of the city of Winchester; who, however, as Nicholson has observed, has not had the luck to have either his language, matter, or method, so well approved as those of Mr. Daniel. Of Daniel's history a certain writer gives this character: it is written with great brevity and politeness; and his political and moral reflections are very fine, useful, and instructive. Langbaine is of opinion, that however well qualified our author's genius was for poetry, yet history is the crown of all his works.*

HENRY GROVE, a learned presbyterian clergyman, was a native of this town. His grandfather, Grove, was ejected from a living in Devonshire, in the year 1662, for non-conformity. His father, though a layman, also suffered much in the same cause, in the reigns of Charles and James the Second. Young Henry was born on the 4th day of January, 1683. At fourteen years of age, having acquired a considerable stock of classical literature, he went through a course of moral philosophy and divinity, under the tuition of the Rev. Mr. Warren, who was then at the head of a very flourishing academy at Taunton. After this he removed to London, and studied for some time,

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under

* Vide General Biographical Dictionary; and life in Chalmers's British Poets, Vol. III.

under the Rev. Mr. Rowe, a near relation of his own. About this time commenced his intimacy with Dr. Watts, and several other persons of great merit. His friendship for the doctor only terminated with his life.

Having passed two years in London, he again returned to the country, and began to preach with great reputation, though only twenty-two years of age. The spirit of devotion which prevailed in his sermons acquired him the friendship of the celebrated Mrs. Rowe, then Miss Sayer. This lady expressed her friendship for him, in an "Ode to Death," which she dedicated to him. Soon after he commenced preaching he married. The death of his tutor, Mr. Warren, took place the same year, upon which event he was chosen to succeed him, in his academy, at Taunton. The province first assigned him, was ethics and pneumatology, each of which departments of philosophy he endeavoured to reduce to a regular system. During this period he preached to two small congregations in the neighbourhood. In 1708 he commenced author, by publishing a piece, entitled, "The Regulation of Diversions," drawn up for the use of his pupils. About this time appeared the celebrated work of Dr. Samuel Clarke, "On the Being and Attributes of God." Mr. Grove not being convinced of the accuracy of the doctor's reasonings, from the necessary ideas of space and duration, wrote to him for information and satisfaction on that point. A correspondence ensued, but neither being able to convince the other, it was soon after dropped, with mutual expressions of esteem. Mr. Grove's next offering to the public, was through the medium of the "Spectator," in which he wrote four papers—Nos. 588, 601, 626, and 635. In 1718, he published an essay on the "Immortality of the Soul." About this time the presbyterians were much divided, by disputes relative to the doctrine of the Trinity. Mr. Grove's conduct on this occasion was very moderate, which brought upon him the censure and displeasure of several even of his own persuasion. To obviate their slander, he wrote an "Essay on the terms of Christian Communion," in which he stated the reasons which induced him

to

to refrain from taking an active part in these theological disputes.

In 1725, his partner in the academy, the Rev. Mr. James, died, so that he was now obliged to take the students of divinity under his own direction. In his lectures to them he confined himself to no system, but directed their attention generally to the best writers on natural and revealed religion, and discussed their controversial opinions with great candour. He likewise succeeded Mr. James in the pastoral charge of his congregation, at Fullwood, in the neighbourhood of Taunton; in which he continued till his death. In 1730, he published "The Evidence of our Saviour's Resurrection considered;" and another work on the "Proof of the Immortality of the Soul," as derived from reason, which drew him into a dispute with the Rev. Mr. Hallet, jun. In 1732, he printed a discourse concerning the nature of the Lord's Supper, in support of the opinions of Dr. Hoadly on that subject. His last publication appeared in 1736: It was entitled "A Discourse on Saving Faith." Soon after this he met with a heavy affliction in the loss of his wife, whose death was followed by his own in little more than a year. His friends erected a handsome monument to his memory, on which there is a Latin inscription, composed by the late Dr. Ward, rhetoric professor, at Gresham college. Besides the works above-mentioned he published several sermons, and also a volume of miscellanies in prose and verse. His "Posthumous Works" were published in the year 1740, in 4 vols. 8vo.*

MR. THOMAS AMORY, born in this town, January 28, 1700-1, likewise deserves notice. He was the son of a grocer of respectability; and was early instructed in classical learning, by the Rev. Mr. Chadwick, who also was the preceptor of Mr. Henry Grove. From Taunton he removed to Exeter, that he might study the French language, under the superintendence of the Rev. Mr. Majendie, a refugee minister, and grandfather of the late Dr. Majendie, at one time preceptor in the English tongue,

* General Biographical Dictionary.

tongue to her present majesty, and subsequently bishop of London. After a short stay at Exeter, he returned to Taunton, and had for his fellow pupil, Mr. Micaiah Towgood, without exception, perhaps, the ablest and most respectable advocate the protestant dissenters ever had; and this is hazarding not a little, when we call to our recollection the learned and ingenious Robinson, of Cambridge; and the still more learned and indefatigable Dr. Priestley.

In 1722 he was examined and approved of as a minister; but did not fully enter on the duties of his office, till the year following, and after he had attended, in London, the philosophical lectures of Mr. John Eames. On the death of the Rev. Stephen James, who, in conjunction with Mr. Grove, had formerly been his tutor, he was fixed as stated preacher once a month to the Rev. Mr. Darch, of Hull-Bishops; besides which he had two other monthly engagements, at *Lumbrook* and *West Hatch*. At this time he engaged as assistant to Mr. Grove, in his academy. From this period Mr. Amory continued to advance in reputation and respect; and succeeding to the tutorship of the Taunton academy, he had the honour to have among his pupils many persons who subsequently became men of consideration and weight in the civil and literary world, particularly the late Right Honourable Lord Willoughby, of Partram, president of the Society of Antiquaries, and a trustee of the British Museum.

In the year 1759, Mr. Amory removed from Taunton to London, where he became afternoon preacher at the Old Jewry, and was highly respected by those who prefer the sober and rational morality of the scriptures to the loud and boisterous pretensions of enthusiastical declaimers about faith and grace, and love and extacy. None but the bigotted and vulgar despised him; and in 1768 he received a divinity doctor's diploma from the University of Edinburgh. Previous to this honour, he had commenced pastor of the Old Jewry congregation, and remained in that situation till his death, in 1774.

As a man, Dr. Amory's memory will be long endeared to those who have respect for prompt integrity and real worth, and, as a christian, few, besides the illiberal and narrow-minded, will be inclined to regard his character in any other light than that of veneration and love. As a scholar, he stood high in the respectable circle in which he had long moved; and his death was lamented by the truly wise and good of all parties and all persuasions.*

WELLINGTON

is a large and populous market town, on the borders of the county of Devon. It consists of four streets, the principal of which is called the High Street, and is very wide and spacious. Many of the houses are well-built and commodious. They are computed to be 750 in number, and the inhabitants about 4000. This town was erected into a borough by the influence of the bishops of Wells, who were, for many centuries, proprietors of the manor of Wellington. It anciently enjoyed various valuable privileges, by the grants of different monarchs.

The earliest historical account we have of Wellington commences with the reign of Alfred, who bestowed it and some other manors on Asser, who had been tutor to several of his children. This Asser was afterwards advanced to the see of Sherborne, and died, possessed of that dignity, in the year 883. After his death, this manor reverted to the king, who conferred it on the first bishop of Wells, for the support of the episcopal honour of himself and his successors. In their hands it continued till the reign of Edward the Sixth, when it became the property of the duke of Somerset, by purchase from bishop Barlow. On the duke's attainder, it was granted to Sir James Fullerton and James Maxwell, who soon after sold it to feoffes, in trust for Sir Francis, son to Sir John Popham, lord chief justice

* Vide Dr. Flexman's Funeral Sermon for Dr. Amory; the Biographia Britannica; and the General Biographical Dictionary.

justice of England, whose heirs possessed it during several descents. It afterwards became the property of Edward Sawyer, Esq.*

Wellington is a place of considerable trade. The number of hands employed in manufacture amount to nearly three thousand. The chief articles made here are serges, druggets, and earthenware. The market is held on Thursday, and is well supplied with provisions of all kinds. It has two fairs, one on the feast of the nativity of St. John the Baptist, and the other on the tenth of November.

The church of Wellington is a handsome Gothic building, one hundred and ten feet in length, and fifty-one in breadth. It consists of a nave, chancel, north and south aisles, two small chapels, a vestry room, and a porch, all covered with lead, except the chancel, which is tiled. This church is dedicated to St. John the Baptist. At the west end is an elegant embattled tower. It is decorated with twelve Gothic pinnacles, of beautiful workmanship. There is also a small turret on the south side. The height of the tower, to the battlements, is one hundred feet. It contains a clock and eight bells.

In the south chapel of this church there is a magnificent tomb, erected in honour of Sir John Popham, lord chief justice of England, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. It is surrounded by a handsome pallsado of wood and iron. On the table of this monument are the effigies of Sir John Popham and his lady. He is dressed in his judge's robes, chain, and small square black cap. He reclines with his head towards the west. On the lower basement, at the head and feet, are four smaller figures of two men and two women, kneeling face to face. On the north side are five boys and eight girls, dressed in black, kneeling in a row. On the south side are nine women, kneeling in the same manner. Over Sir John and his lady is a superb arched canopy, beautifully ornamented with the family arms, roses,

* Collinson, II. 432.

roses, paintings, and obelisks. The whole is supported by eight round columns of black marble, five feet high, with Corinthian capitals, green, and gilt. On the west side of this canopy is the following inscription :—

Sir John Popham, Knighte, lord chief justice of England; and of the honourable privie counsel to Queen Elizabeth, and after to King James, died the tenth of June, 1607, aged seventy-six, and is here interred.

It may not be improper to remark here, that Sir John Popham was one of the most upright and able judges that ever sat upon the English bench. He was a native of *Huntwith*, in this county, and educated chiefly at Baliol College, in Oxford. From hence he removed to the Temple, and was admitted barrister in 1568. He was afterwards successively serjeant at law, solicitor-general, and attorney-general, previous to his ultimate promotion, which took place in 1592. Sir John was a munificent patron to Wellington. Here he built a large and elegant house, for his own residence, which was converted into a garrison for the use of the parliamentary army, in the time of Oliver Cromwell. It was soon after besieged by the royalists, and so completely ruined during the contest, that it was never attempted to be repaired. He also erected an hospital at the west end of the town, for twelve old and infirm persons, the one half being men and the other women. Two children were also to be educated here. It is still standing, and the charity applied. Sir John endowed it with an estate in land, which is now vested in the governors.

Besides the monument to Sir John and his lady, there are several others: one is in memory of a female of the same family. The rest do not seem to deserve particular notice.

MILVERTON

gives name to the hundred in which it stands, and is a very ancient market-town, situated in a rich woody country, well cultivated,

cultivated, and very populous. The town is but small, consisting, principally, of three irregular streets, with the church; standing on an eminence, in the centre. This town was, at one time, a borough, and had a good trade in serges and druggets; and there is still an extensive manufactory of flannels, which, under the direction of an enterprising *Friend*, rival the best articles of the kind in the principality.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Michael, is a large edifice; being one hundred and twelve feet in length, and sixty in breadth: but the town is chiefly remarkable in history as having given name to the celebrated John de Milverton, a Carmelite friar of Bristol, who died in the year 1480; having signalized himself by a furious opposition to the doctrines of Wickliff, the first English Reformer.*

WIVELISCOMBE

is a pretty large market-town, in the hundred of Kingsbury West. It was called by the Saxons *Wifeliscombe*; but various and contradictory etymologies have been given. It is encompassed on every side, with the exception of a slight opening towards Taunton, by lofty hills, whose summits are enriched by beautiful woods.

At the time of the Romans this was a place of some importance, as appears from the circumstance of several coins of that people being found here; and yet more from the remains of an encampment, or large *castrum*, on a hill, about a mile from the town, still called *the Castle*. The summit of this hill contains about five acres, which is almost entirely covered with coppice wood; yet some vestiges of fortifications, and foundations

* Collinson, III. 18. Wickliff died in 1384; yet Mr. Collinson says that Milverton, who died A. D. 1480, "was a great opponent of Wickliff." There is evidently a confusion of dates here. See Gilpin's *Life of Wickliff*.

tions of buildings, have been often discovered on its surface. In the year 1711 numerous Roman coins were found here.

During the inroads of the Danes in this county, the invaders availed themselves of this castle; and, after they withdrew, the Saxons removed to the neighbouring vale, and denominated the place of their new dwellings Wiveliscombe. From this time the place became of importance, and was held by the Saxon kings, till Edward the Confessor granted all his lands here to the church of Wells.

About the year 1256, Bishop Button having obtained from the king a charter of free-warren for himself and his successors, in this and his other manors, John de Dronkensord "either raised from the ground, or rebuilt, a stately palace adjoining to the cemetery, which his successor in the see, Ralph of Shrewsbury, greatly improved."* This episcopal palace is now entirely in ruins, and part of the ancient site has been built upon.

The church has nothing very remarkable in its history or structure. It is a prebend belonging to the Wells cathedral, and a vicarage belonging to the prebend. The other places of worship are not numerous; but the dissenters have their respective meetings.

There is an alms-house, or hospital, for twelve poor people, founded and endowed by Sir John Coventry.

Wiveliscombe had formerly a very extensive trade in shrouds, blankettings, kerseys, and baize; but the ill-fated policy of the last ten or twenty years has given to the commerce of this, as to other towns, an almost fatal blow, and the manufactures have suffered exceedingly.

DULVERTON

is a very ancient town; having belonged to the West Saxon kings, and being in the possession of the crown at the time of the

* Collinson, II. 489, from Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

the Norman survey. It continued in the crown till the year 1294, when Edward the First granted the manor, with an exemption from all other jurisdiction, to Thomas de Pyne, and Hawise his wife, reversionary, at their death, to the crown. About the year 1555, it was granted to William Babington, Esq. to be held *in capite* by knight's service; and in the year 1576, it was sold, with other places, to John Sydenham, Esq. in whose family it has since remained. The noble mansion of this family is situate at *Combe*, about a mile from the town.

The church of Dulverton is a neat Gothic structure, and was dedicated, according to Ecton, to All-Saints; and, according to others, to the Holy Trinity. It has an embattled tower, sixty feet high, with a small turret at one corner, containing a clock and five bells, the fourth of which was brought from *Barlinch* priory in *Brompton Regis*. In the south aisle is an elegant mural monument of white marble, inscribed to the memory of Hugh Sydenham, Esq. "whose least honour was his descent from an ancient and worthy family."*

The town consists of two neat well-built streets, which are kept clean and wholesome, by having streams of water constantly running through them. The chief manufactures are coarse woollen cloths and blankets. There are also a few lead mines in the neighbourhood; but the ore is not reckoned of the best quality, being hard and barren.

Exford is situated at the farthest extremity of the county, westward, towards Dorsetshire. It is a parish in the hundred of Carhampton, on the river Ex, and on the borders of Exmoor forest, and stands in a fertile vale, surrounded with bleak and dreary moors. It is a small place, but has a church, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen: is a good Gothic structure, standing on an eminence; and was, in great part, rebuilt not many years ago. At the west end is a strong embattled tower, seventy feet high, containing four bells. There is also a charity-school, founded by Mr. Cox, and Mrs. Musgrove, for ten poor children.† About a mile and a half eastward of the church
are

* Collinson, III. 524.

† Ibid, II. 21.

are the vestiges of some ancient iron-works. Many of the old pits, from which the ore was dug, still remain, and great quantities of the scoria are found about them.

Exmoor Forest is now a wild uncultivated range of country. Many curious plants are found here, and in the neighbourhood around it. This forest was, in the time of the Druids, dedicated to religious rites. Here the attentive observer can perceive many traces of ancient sepulchres, but to whose memory they were erected it is now impossible to discover: whether kings, statesmen, or warriors, their names and actions are forever consigned to oblivion. The very urns in which they were buried are mouldered into dust. A few simple stones, half wasted away by the influence of time, serve only to mark the spot which covers their ashes.

On the skirts of this forest are a number of circular entrenchments, called, in the maps, *castles*, but the inconsiderable size of many of them, and the position of others, induce us to think they have been thrown up for the celebration of Druidical ceremonies, rather than for warlike purposes. *Cowes Castle*, situated on the river Barle, north-west from Withypool, we acknowledge to be an exception to this opinion.

Cutcombe is an extensive parish, situated a short distance to the north-east of Exford, in the same hundred with that village. In the Norman survey it is called *Udecome*, derived from two Saxon words, signifying a deep valley covered with wood. This parish is bounded on the north and south by very lofty eminences. On the western side is *Dunkery*, the highest mountain in the west of England. It is twelve miles in circumference at the base, and one thousand seven hundred and seventy feet in perpendicular height.* No part of this hill is cultivated. Some places of it, however, would serve for pasture; but its chief products are whortleberries and moss.

On the summit of this hill may be seen a vast collection of rough loose stones, among which are the ruins of three large fire-hearths,

placed, with regard to each other, in the form of an equilateral triangle, and inclosing between them another hearth of a much larger size. At the distance of a mile from these, and two hundred feet beneath their level, are the vestiges of other two fire-places, also environed with a large collection of loose stones. All of them are the remains of fortified signal posts, erected here many centuries ago, to alarm the country in case of foreign invasion or internal commotion. Hence this hill is yet called Dunkery Beacon.

The elevation of Dunkery above the whole of the surrounding country renders the prospect from it one of the noblest and most extensive in Great Britain. In a clear day, the high lands near Plymouth, and the Malvern Hills, near Worcester, with all the intermediate scenery, comprehending a distance of two hundred miles, are distinctly visible. On the west and north-west the British and Bristol Channels, and the greater part of South Wales, fall within the scope of this view; while Somerset, Dorset, Hants, and Wilts, range themselves to the south and east. The line which bounds this prospect cannot be less than five hundred miles in circumference.

The church of this parish is an ancient structure, dedicated to St. Lawrence. It consists of a nave, chancel, and one aisle. At the west end of it is a tower, containing a chime of bells. The living is a rectory in the deanery of Dunster, under the patronage of the crown. There are no monuments here worthy of notice.

A charity-school was founded in this parish, about the year 1720, by Richard Elsworth, of Timberscombe, for the instruction of ten poor children in reading and writing. The endowment made for this purpose was ten pounds per annum; and though the sum is now very inadequate to answer the object of the institution, the school is still kept up.

PORLOCK, OR PORTLOCK,

is a small sea-port town and parish, situated on the Bristol Channel, about six miles west from Minehead. The houses here are few, straggling, and ill built. Its trade, as may be supposed, is extremely trifling, and consists chiefly in bringing coals and lime from Wales. There are only three markets in this town during the whole year. The place where they are held is distinguished by a cross, which bears, in its structure and appearance, strong evidence of great antiquity.

The scenery around Porlock is very beautiful and picturesque. Towards the shore it is even grand and magnificent. Steep and lofty hills, covered with wood, and intersected by hollow glens and delightful vallies, defend it on every side. Nothing can exceed the beauty of some of these glens. Here nature is arrayed in her wildest and most romantic garb. The bold projecting rocks, which assume a thousand different forms, are finely shaded and relieved by the verdant foliage which twines around them. The vallies also exhibit the highest cultivation, and abound with elegant rural villas and cottages.

On the rising grounds, however, the difficulties of farming are much increased by the steepness of the roads and fields, which renders the use of carriages almost impracticable. The crops are, therefore, collected with crooks on horses, and the manure conveyed to the ground in a similar manner.

To the north and north-west this parish is washed by the Bristol Channel, which here forms a most delightful bay, extending about three miles along the shore, and having in the centre a decoy for catching wild fowl.

On the eastern part of this bay there are several ridges of rocks, which rise with the boldest irregularity in some places to the height of more than three hundred feet. At high water part of these rocks are insulated. In spring tides, when the

wind blows hard from the west, the raging of the sea almost exceeds description. It has hollowed out a number of immense caverns, which serve both to re-echo the roaring of the billows, and to increase their fury and violence. The cliffs, at the east corner of this point, hang over the beach in a manner peculiarly awful and sublime. When the tide retires, the shore exhibits a vast collection of rocky fragments, which have been separated from the cliffs above, and lie "scattered or piled on each other in wild magnificence." The whole of these rocks are intersected with a variety of metallic veins and crystals of different sorts.

This town, however trifling now, was formerly a place of considerable note. In the time of the Saxons it was the residence of royalty, had an extensive chace, and a free weekly market, with a number of other valuable privileges. It derived its name originally from the bay, which was esteemed an excellent station for ships.*

Porlock makes some figure in history during the Danish invasions. In the year 918 that people, after laying waste a great part of Wales, thought it expedient to visit Somersetshire. Accordingly they landed privately, during the night, in this bay, under the conduct of the Earls Ohtor and Rhoald; but being soon discovered, they were attacked with such bravery by the inhabitants, that the greater part of them fell victims to their boldness, while the remainder were compelled to re-embark with the utmost precipitation.

The same good fortune, however, did not attend their efforts in the year 1052, when invaded by Harold, Earl of Essex, though they fought with equal resolution. That nobleman, whom we mentioned in our account of Glastonbury, as having been banished along with his father, the earl of Kent, formed the design of effecting a debarkation in this county. With this view he retired to Ireland, where he levied a considerable

* Leland calls *Porlogh-bay* "a meatly good rode for shippes." Itin. II. 63.

siderable number of troops, and then he proceeded for *Porlock bay*.^{*} Apprised of the approach of the enemy, the inhabitants collected in great multitudes to oppose him. Harold, however, was successful, and effected a landing. He then formed an entrenched camp in a wood, about one mile and a half from the situation of the present church. This being completed, he left a sufficient garrison for its defence, and marched into the interior with the rest of his troops, spreading death and desolation on every side. At last, fearing the approach of the royal army, he returned to his ships, loaded with booty, after setting fire to the town of Porlock and the adjacent woods. The spot on which Harold encamped is distinctly marked, even at this day. The upper trenches, in particular, are still very deep. Within the area of this camp swords and other instruments of war have been frequently found.

The memory of these transactions is faithfully preserved by tradition among the inhabitants of this parish, who, even so late as the beginning of last century, could point out the burnt foundation-stones of some of the ancient buildings.† They firmly believe that Porlock, previous to that event, was an extensive and populous city, possessing all the splendour and magnificence of a royal metropolis. This is a mere vulgar opinion, totally unsupported by any rational probability. Still, however, we think there is sufficient reason to believe that Porlock had some claims to distinction during the Saxon heptarchy.

The church of this parish is an ancient Gothic structure, dedicated to St. Dubritius. It consists of a nave, chancel, aisle, vestry-room, and porch. The length of the whole is ninety-six feet, and its breadth thirty-four. At the west end is a tower, surmounted with the remains of a spire, which suffered from a storm in the seventeenth century.

The chancel of this church is distinguished by a grand

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arched

^{*} Saxon Chronicle, An. 1052, p. 166. † Peter Langtoft's Chronicle.

arched canopy, supported by four pillars, having under it a large monument, ornamented with the effigies of a knight templar and his lady. The former is in complete armour, with a military belt and sword; the latter is habited in a close boddice, having a loose robe thrown over her, and a sort of mitred head-dress. At his head and feet are the figures of a lion. Her feet are supported by some other animal, so much mutilated as to prevent us from determining its species. Neither this, nor another very ancient tomb, which stands against the north wall of the chancel, have any inscriptions upon them; so that we cannot say with certainty to whose memory they were erected. Mr. Collinson supposes them to have belonged to the family of Roges, or Rogers, who possessed the manor of Porlock, in the reign of Henry the Second.*

On the opposite wall of the chancel is a pompous mural monument, constructed partly of stone and partly of black marble. It is very superbly ornamented with carved foliage, gilding, painting, and scrolls. In the front are placed two small columns of black marble, surmounted with gilt Corinthian capitals, which support a cornice adorned with a flaming urn at each corner. An arched pediment rises from the centre of this cornice, beneath which recline two cherubs, having their wings expanded and gilt. Their left hands support a civic crown, and their right the arms, *sable*, six martlets *argent*. On the tablet is a long Latin inscription, importing this monument to have been erected in honour of Nathaniel Arundel, S. T. B. rector of the parish of Exford, who died in the year 1705, in the seventieth year of his age.

Under an arch in the south wall of the aisle is the effigy of a knight, greatly mutilated and defaced. His left arm bears a shield, while his right hand grasps the hilt of a sword, which hangs on his left side, affixed to a military belt. One of the pillars in this part of the church exhibits a table of benefactions to the parish, over which are placed the arms of Rogers, viz.

argent,

* Collinson, II. 36. Cart. Antiq.

argent, a chevron between three bucks trippant, *sable*. Neither these nor any of the other monuments seem worthy of notice.

About two miles west from Porlock is the small, but singularly romantic, parish of *Culbone*. Its inhabitants, at the last survey, did not exceed fifty-six in number, all of whom occupied only eleven houses.

This parish is environed on every side by mountains which rise so high above the vale below, that the sun is not visible during three months of the year. For the same reason it is scarcely possible to approach it on horseback. These hills are covered with whortleberries, and a variety of mosses, among which is some of the yellow rein-deer moss. They abound with wild deer, foxes, badgers, and martin cats.

The church of *Culbone* is a neat gothic building, of a size in just proportion to the limited extent and population of the parish. It consists of a chancel, aisle, and porch, covered with tiles. No spot can be supposed more delightfully picturesque and romantic than the situation of this church. It stands in a little narrow cove, at an elevation of four hundred feet above the level of the sea. The surrounding hills ascend in an almost perpendicular direction to the height of twelve hundred feet, forming a noble amphitheatre at the back part of the cove. Nature has no where been more profuse in rearing trees than on these hills, which are covered with a great variety of different species. A beautiful rivulet rushes through a narrow channel in the interior of this cove, and passing the church, forms a succession of cascades, in flowing down the rocks into the sea.

MINEHEAD

is a sea-port town and borough, situated on the Bristol Channel. It is divided into three parts; the *Quay Town*, and the *Upper* and *Lower Town*.

The *Quay Town* stands close to the shore, under the brow of

N n 4

a lofty

a lofty hill, called the Headland, which is finely cultivated, on one side, to the very summit. On that nearest the town it is extremely steep and rugged. The rocks hang at a prodigious height above the tops of the houses, and seem every moment to threaten them with destruction.

The *Upper Town* is situated on the eastern slope of this hill, and is composed of several irregular streets, most of the houses in which are mean and incommodious.

The site of the *Lower* or *Middle Town* is about half a mile to the south-east of the beach.

Minehead was formerly a place of considerable trading importance. About the beginning of the last century there were forty vessels belonging to it engaged in the Irish trade alone. Several were also employed in trading to the West Indies and America; and upwards of four thousand barrels of herrings were annually exported to the Mediterranean. Now, however, the whole of this trade is lost: the herring fishery is no more. A trifling manufactory of woollen, and some traffic in coals, form the chief employment of the inhabitants.

The country around Minehead is extremely pleasing and beautiful. Lofty hills are finely interspersed with rich and luxuriant vallies. The mildness of the climate is such that vegetation is a month earlier here than in most parts of England. The same cause induces a number of persons to resort to this place for sea-bathing, a circumstance which in no small degree contributes to its support and welfare. It has a market every Wednesday, which is well supplied with provisions.

The church of Minehead stands in the *Upper Town*. It is a large handsome building, an hundred and sixteen feet long, and forty broad, and consists of a nave, chancel, north aisle, and vestry room. At the west end is a neat embattled tower, containing a clock, chimes, and five bells. This church is a vicarage in the deanery of Dunster. The patronage attaches to the manor.

The north aisle is adorned with an elegant alabaster statue of
Queen

Queen Anne, standing upon a pedestal four feet high, and holding in her hands a globe and sceptre. The following is the inscription upon it:—

“ This statue was given by Sir Jacob Banks, * and erected in 1719.”

Sir Jacob was member for this borough during sixteen years, and was a great benefactor to it on several occasions.†

There are no monuments, either in the church or churchyard, which deserve to be mentioned; we may remark, however, that near the centre of the latter there is an old stone cross, with four rows of steps.

The town of Minehead was first incorporated by Queen Elizabeth. In the time of its prosperity it enjoyed many privileges which are now fallen into disuse. The government was then vested in a portreve, but has since been committed to two constables, chosen annually at the court leet of the lord of the manor. Minehead sends two members to parliament, who are elected by such of the parishioners of Minehead and Dunster as are housekeepers and do not receive alms. The constables are the legal returning officers.

There is an alms-house in this parish, containing eleven apartments, the bequest of Mr. Robert Quirk. On a brass plate over the door is the following singular inscription:—

“ Robert Quirk built this house Anno 1630, and doth give it to the use of the poore of this parish for ever. And for better maintenance I do give my two inner cellers, at the inner end of the key; and cursed be that man that shall convert it to any other use than to the use of the poore, 1630.”

Below is the engraving of a ship, with these words:—

“ God's providence
Is my inheritance.

R. Q.”

We cannot conclude our account of this place without mentioning

* Hutchins's History and Antiquities of Dorsetshire, folio, II. 433.

† Collinson, II. 32.

tioning some of the natural curiosities with which the shore here is so abundantly supplied.

Between Minehead and Dunster, many hundred yards within high water mark, there is a vast collection of roots of large trees, which shoot up several inches above the surface of the sand. In these roots, though extremely soft and easily crumbled, the texture of the wood is perfectly distinct, and the interior parts even retain their proper appearance. What seems to us a matter of great curiosity is, that this wood, when divided by a section parallel to the grain, is found to contain a number of oak leaves, and shells of the dottle kind, in a semi-fossil state, none of which, in their recent condition, are now seen on any part of this coast.

The rocks in this neighbourhood abound with a peculiar species of limpet, which affords a very curious liquor, used in marking fine linen. Upon opening the shell in such a way as not to injure the fish, a white vein is discovered lying transversely in a little furrow, near the head, which can easily be taken out by a bodkin, or other sharp pointed instrument. When put upon linen, this liquor exhibits a variety of changes in its colour. At first it is of a light green shade, but when exposed to the rays of the sun, it immediately assumes a deep green tinge: in a few minutes it changes to a full sea green, then to a blue, a light purplish red, and lastly to a deep purple red. The sun then ceases to affect any further alteration of colour. But upon the linen being washed in warm water and soap, and again placed under his influence, the liquor becomes of a bright crimson colour, which no subsequent washing will alter or eradicate.* These changes, probably, depend upon the different modifications of affinity exerted by the different solar rays to each successive colour, which thereby give rise to another change.

Besides limpets, there are a great variety of other shell-fish on this shore. It also abounds with pebbles of a very large size,

* Cole, in Phil. Trans. Abridge. II. p. 825.

size, which are washed up here, by the tide, from the Welsh coast. These are burned into lime in great quantities, and used by the farmers as a manure.*

On the south slope of a lofty ridge, which bound the parishes of Minehead and Dunster, is *Wotton Courtney*, a small parish, worthy of notice on account of the beauty of its situation, as well as the interior decoration and embellishment of the church.

This church stands on an eminence above the village, which consists of a small but very neat street, irregularly built. It is dedicated to All Saints, and contains a nave, chancel, and north aisle, all covered with tiles. At the west end rises a handsome embattled tower, having a clock and five bells. Three lofty arches separate the nave from the aisle. The pillars of these arches are six feet in circumference; and clustered in a most beautiful manner. On the top of them are statues, in niches, finely embellished with a variety of Gothic ornaments. That adjoining to the chancel is the image of St. Christopher carrying our Saviour: the middle one is supposed to be the effigy of the Virgin Mary: and the third St. Lawrence, with his gridiron. The east window, on the south side of the nave, is adorned, on each side, with the figure of an angel, having the names St. Gabriel and St. Michael on their breasts. Here is also a very ancient font. The chancel floor has several monumental inscriptions upon it, but they do not require particular notice.

In the churchyard are the fragments of an old cross, and a fine yew-tree, with beautiful spreading branches.

DUNSTER

is a market-town and parish, in the hundred of Carthampton, situated on the margin of a rich and fertile vale, opening towards the Bristol Channel. On every other side it is defended

* Collinson, I. 30.

fended by lofty hills, which rise in rapid succession behind each other.

At an early period this place was of great note, being a fortress, belonging to the West Saxon kings. In the language of that people it was originally called *Torre*, which signifies a fortified tower. In after times it received the addition of *Dun*, or *Dune*, which implies a ridge of mountains stretching along the sea coast. The present appellation, *Dunster*, is evidently a contraction of *Dunestorre*.

The town of *Dunster* is at present very inconsiderable, both with regard to extent and population. It consists principally of two streets, one running in a north and south direction, and the other branching westward from the church. The former of these is by much the largest. It is in general well built, and of a tolerable breadth, but unfortunately encumbered by an ancient market cross, and a long range of ruinous shambles, which stand near the centre. The market is held on Friday.

Dunster sent members to parliament, and enjoyed other borough privileges, in the reign of Edward the Third. Those rights, however, are now lost; but the parishioners are entitled to vote in the election of the members for Minehead, which is nearly equivalent to a representation of their own.

On the south-east side of the churchyard there are some ruins of an ancient priory of Benedictine monks. It was a cell annexed to the abbey of St. Peter, at Bath, and was amply endowed by the family of the Mohuns. In this cell the vicar of the church had his commons and repasts, and a fire during winter, at the sole expence of the priory. He also received an annual stipend of four pounds from the prior, and some other perquisites, which we deem it unnecessary to mention.

The church of *Dunster* is one of the largest Gothic structures of the kind in England. It was built by Henry the Seventh, as a mark of his gratitude for the assistance he received from the inhabitants of this town in the famous battle of

Bosworth

Bosworth Field, which happily terminated the disputes between the houses of York and Lancaster. This church is divided into two parts by a tower, which rises, in the centre, to the height of ninety feet, and is supported by four large pillars. It is embattled at the top, and surmounted by low broken pinnacles. The division eastward of the tower was the original church belonging to the priory, and was also used by the vicar for the performance of divine service till the year 1499, when a dispute took place between the monks and the parishioners. This being referred to the decision of three arbitrators, it was determined that the vicar and his successors should have their quire distinct from that of the priory, to be erected and repaired at the expence of the parishioners. This part of the church is now stript of all its furniture, and totally neglected. It contains, however, a number of fine monumental tombs and escutcheons of the families of Mohun and Lutrell, which are now "perishing with their owners in the dust, and exhibiting a strong rebuke to the vanity of human greatness." *

That part of the church which lies to the west of the tower, is that which is now used for divine service. It consists of a nave, chancel, and north and south aisles. This division of the church contains no monuments of any description. In the churchyard there is an effigy of one of the Everard family, lying between two arches.

The castle of Dunster is situated on a steep hill, at the south extremity of the principal street. It is surrounded by beautiful parks, finely embellished with trees, and affording pasture to a great number of sheep and rein-deer. The view from it is delightfully varied and extensive. This castle was originally built at a very early period. After the conquest, it was bestowed on Sir William Mohun, descended from an ancient and honourable family in Normandy, who warmly seconded the views of the Conqueror from the time
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* Collinson, II. 18. Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

he first announced his intention of visiting England. No sooner did he enter into possession, than he demolished the old structure, and built another in its stead. He also founded the priory of Benedictine monks, already noticed, which he dedicated to the honour of St. George.*

His son and grandson, both of whom were named William, greatly improved the buildings of their predecessor. The former was also a liberal benefactor to the priory. The latter is distinguished in history for the assistance he rendered to the cause of the Empress Maud, in whose behalf he fortified the castle, and made many successful inroads into the neighbouring country. These services procured him the honours of nobility, by the title of earl of Somerset and Dorset, which he enjoyed till his death, in 1160, when he was buried in the priory of Bruton, which he himself had founded and endowed.

From the family of the Mohuns the property of the castle, as well as the manor, passed, by purchase, into that of the Lutrells, about the close of the reign of Edward the Third. John Fownes Lutrell, Esq. a descendant of that family, and representative in parliament for the town of Minehead, is the present possessor. Many of the ancestors of this gentleman have distinguished themselves both in the field and the cabinet.

The extent of territory and feudal power formerly appendant to this castle was very great. Besides the demesnes in its immediate neighbourhood, the Conqueror bestowed upon Sir William Mohun no less than fifty-six manors or vills, in different parts of the county. Like other fortresses, it has been the scene of much military confusion. The famous William Prynne was for some time confined here.

This gentleman was born at *Swanswick*, in the hundred of Bath-Forum, in the year 1600. After a few years attendance at the grammar-school in Bath he became a commoner of Oriel College, Oxford, in the year 1616. Here he took the degree of Bachelor of Arts, and immediately removed to Lincoln's Inn, with

* Leland's Itin. II. 61. Jel. Collectan. I. 203.

with a view to the study of the law, where he afterwards became successively barrister, bencher, and reader. At this time he first rendered himself remarkable by his enthusiastic admiration of Dr. John Preston, a distinguished puritan, who was then a lecturer at this Inn. Notwithstanding his studies and other avocations, he found sufficient leisure to compose and publish several treatises against what he termed "the enormities of the age, and concerning the doctrines and discipline of the church." In the year 1632 his work, entitled "Histriomastix," was laid before the public. This book was written expressly against plays; and in a note of reference, in a table at the end, he uses the terms, "women actors notorious whores," as he himself alleged, in reference to some actresses mentioned in the body of the work. It so happened, that the Queen thought proper to demean herself, by acting a part in a pastoral, at Somerset House, about six weeks after this production made its appearance. In conformity with that spirit of dastardly malevolence so characteristic of the clergy in almost every age but the present, Archbishop Laud, and other prelates, resolved to make this circumstance subservient to their views of effecting the ruin of Prynne. He had written with liberality upon the impositions and oppressions of the church, and they thirsted for revenge, aptly termed, by *Pierre*,

" The attribute of gods, who stamp'd it,
With their great image, on our nature."

For we are not acquainted with any sect of religionists, except such as are christians, who do not hold this doctrine to be an essential part of their belief. No wonder then, that, in days of ignorance, sentiments like these should have also contaminated the ministers of our purer religion, and that they should wish rather to imitate the gods of other countries, than humbly to obey the mild and merciful precepts of the gospel. Be that, however, as it may, the illustrious prelate above mentioned, and his pious friends, did not scruple to sacrifice every principle

ciple of virtue, and every feeling of humanity, to obtain this godlike object. The day following the queen's display of her theatrical powers, they waited upon the king, and showed him the work of Prynne, avowing it to have been purposely written to cast odium on his royal consort. Its prior date to her acting was a matter of no consequence. It was easy to reason very logically thus:—the book calls all women actors “notorious whores;” the queen is a woman, and an actress, and therefore is, beyond doubt, alluded to there. Dates can make no difference—it is actions or sentiments themselves that are in every case to be canvassed, not whether they were done or spoken yesterday or to-day. Very true, said the king, who may be presumed to have been too pious to doubt the validity of the archbishop's reasoning, this fellow must be punished. Away with him then to the Tower, and let him feel what it is to insult royalty, and to question the authority of a prelate. Prynne was accordingly committed, and kept close prisoner for many months. At last the king and his holy advisers were pleased, in the meekness of their hearts, to order him up for trial to the Star Chamber, where his accusers themselves, or their instruments, sat as his judges. He was sentenced to pay five thousand pounds to the king, to be expelled the university of Oxford, deprived of his gown as a lawyer, to stand on the pillory, and lose his ears; to have his book publicly burnt before his face, and to remain a prisoner during life. After this sentence, Prynne was committed to prison, where he lay till May, 1634, when the sentence was executed in its full rigour, to the eternal disgrace of the government and the priesthood.

During his confinement Prynne published several other books, reflecting upon the conduct of the archbishop and his associates. For this he was again doomed to suffer in a manner even more disgraceful, if possible, than at first. His place of confinement was changed to Caernarvon Castle, from whence he was subsequently removed to Mount Orgeuil, in the isle of Jersey, where he continued to exert his talents against the
cruel

cruel disposition of the king and the bishops. The case was soon after made the subject of parliamentary enquiry, the event of which procured him his enlargement, with honourable eclat. The time was happily arrived in which philosophy began to extend its influence over the practical views and condition of the human race. The doctrine of passive obedience, and the unlimited power of princes, as the vicegerents of God, by being often attacked, began at last to give way. The eyes of mankind were opened to their real political relations. They saw kings to be no more than men, vested with authority for the benefit of their fellow-creatures. They contemplated the oppressions of the priesthood with the indignation they deserved, and resolved to make one strenuous effort to vindicate their rights, and restrain the unlicenced authority both of their civil and religious tyrants. In the first glorious object, after a long and bloody struggle, they ultimately succeeded; and we now happily enjoy the fruits of their illustrious exertions. The power of the clergy has also been checked; and, to the honour of human nature be it said, this check is not so much the result of positive restraint, as of the temper of the times, and the more general diffusion of liberal and dignified sentiments among the members of that sacred body.

Shortly after his release Mr. Prynne was elected member of parliament for Newport, in Cornwall, in which capacity he proved a strenuous opposer of the measures of the archbishop and bishops. He was chosen to conduct the trial of the former; and at the revolution was appointed one of the parliamentary visitors to the university of Oxford.

During his sittings in the long parliament, he was zealous in promoting the presbyterian cause; but when the independents began to gain the ascendancy, he resisted them with great vigour, and promoted the interest of King Charles. At the time of discussing that monarch's answers to the propositions of peace, he made a long speech in parliament on the propriety of receiving them. This occasioned the doors of the

house to be shut against him two days afterwards, a circumstance which aroused in his breast a most inveterate hatred against Cromwell and the army. He even went so far as to defy the protector in the most daring and open manner, who caused him to be imprisoned in the castle of *Dunster*. He now insisted strongly on *Magna Charta*, and the liberty of the subject; and his resolute conduct ultimately procured him his freedom.

In the year 1659 he resumed his seat, as a secluded member of the House of Commons, and became so zealous for the restoration of the royal family, that General Monk was often obliged to restrain his ardour, as being at that time altogether unreasonable. In 1660 he was elected member for Bath, in the healing parliament; and after the restoration, was made chief keeper of his majesty's records in the Tower, with a salary of five hundred pounds per annum. He was again elected for the same city the year following; and in July after, being discontented with some proceeding of the house, he published a paper, entitled, "Sundry Reasons tendered to the most Honourable House of Peers, by some Citizens and Members of London, and other Cities, Boroughs, Corporations, and Ports, against the new-intended Bill for Governing and Reforming Corporations." This gave so much offence, that, upon being discovered to have been the author, he was obliged to make a very humble apology to the house, in order to escape punishment. From this period till his death, in 1669, he continued publishing books upon political and religious questions.

With regard to the merits of Prynne, as a writer, there are various opinions, influenced, probably, more by party feelings than candid criticism. One writer calls him the "greatest paper worm that ever crept into a closet;" and taking the expression in one sense, he is far from being mistaken. The writings of Prynne are not, perhaps, surpassed in bulk and number by any author whatever. Indeed it is no exaggeration to say, that he wrote a sheet every day of his life, from the

the time he reached the years of manhood. The Earl of Clarendon calls him learned in the law, as far as mere reading can make any one learned. According to Antony Wood, the scholars of his day considered his works rather rhapsodical and confused than polite and concise; but at the same time acknowledged them to be useful for antiquaries, critics, and divines. Upon the whole, he seems to have possessed more ardour than genius, and more industry than judgment; but his productions must certainly be allowed to have had some influence on the events of his time. The generality of mankind are more apt to be inflamed than convinced; and the nearer language approaches to rhapsody, provided it is energetic or scriptural, the more easily will the flame be kindled. Paine was read with avidity, while Hume was neglected and despised. Blair is regarded with coldness, while Whitfield is copied and admired.

Prynne's greatest work goes under the title of "Records," in three volumes, folio. Another is called "Parliamentary Writs," in four parts, quarto.*

Old Cleeve is a parish, situated in the hundred of free manors, on the Bristol Channel. It is covered with high craggy cliffs, which afford an extensive view of the coast of Wales, and abound with very fine alabaster.

The earliest notice we have of this parish is at the time of the Norman survey. The Conqueror bestowed it on the family of Romare, or De Romara, one of whom was first created Earl of Lincoln, by King Stephen, in the year 1141. He was succeeded by his nephew, William, who married Philippa, daughter to the Earl of Kent. This nobleman was among the number of those who imagined that enriching monks, and supporting idleness, was worshipping God. With this idea, he founded here a monastery of Cistercian monks, and bestowed upon it the property of the whole parish.† The ruins of this monastery are still extensive. It seems to have been

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built

* Gen. Biog. Dict. † Dug. Mon. Angl. I. 531. Collinson, III. 511.

built in the form of a square, having one side open. The spot on which this abbey stands is called, in the old charters, *Vallis Florida*, or the flowery vale, from the nature of the surrounding scenery. Like other places set apart for religious purposes in the days of Druids and monks, it is secluded from the view of impiety by shady woods and rugged precipices. Superstition, with the other children of fear, is nurtured by gloom and solitude. Whatever is plain and open is considered, by the herd of mankind, as trivial and unimportant. Clothe it in mystery, and surround it with difficulty, thousands behold it with astonishment, and conclude it to be divine. Superstitious belief is in the inverse ratio of probability and reason. Tell the blind votary of a sect that air is condensable, and he will not credit your assertion ; but preach to him some unintelligible doctrine of metaphysico-theology, and he will not only believe, but insist upon its truth.

Betwixt the village of Old Cleeve and the sea, there is a hamlet called *Chapel Cleeve*. This name was derived from an ancient chapel erected on the rock near this spot, dedicated to the Virgin Mary. The chapel was, in early times, much frequented by pilgrims. Vestiges of it are still to be seen. At a short distance from it stood an hospital, or inn, for the entertainment of those whose piety led them, unprovided, into this part of the country. There is another small chapel in this parish, at a place called *Leighland*. It is an ancient building, belonging to the parish church, forty-six feet long, and nineteen wide, with a small turret, containing one bell. St. Giles is the saint to whom it is dedicated. The situation on which it stands is sequestered and romantic.

The church of Old Cleeve is dedicated to St. Andrew. It consists of a nave, chancel, and south aisle. At the west end is a well-built tower, containing a clock and four bells. It is not known when this structure was founded, but it bears strong marks of great antiquity. In the year 1198 it was given, by William de Romana, Earl of Lincoln, to Savaricus, bishop of Bath

Bath and Glastonbury, who made it a prebend in his cathedral church of Wells, and annexed it to the Benedictine abbey of Bec-Hellouin, in Normandy. In the year 1320 the vicar was ordained both to serve this church and the chapel of Cleeve. The living is in the deanery of Dunster. Neither the church nor churchyard contain any thing worthy of notice, except an old cross, which stands in the centre of the latter. This has four rows of steps, with the pedestal or pillar tolerably entire.

St. Decumans is a large parish, situated upon the sea coast, at a short distance from Old Cleeve. It was so called from a saint of that name, who, in the seventh century, is said to have come over from Wales, and fixed his solitary abode near the site of the present church. Of the mode in which this saint performed his journey vulgar tradition affords many ridiculous stories. Some say he was drifted over the channel on a bundle of rods; others that he was transported by a cow, which was wont to follow him of her own accord, and supply him with milk.

The property of this parish was originally divided into several villis and manors. The great manor, which was called the "manor of Williton," belonged to a person of the name of Saric, in the reign of Edward the Third. The family of Fitzurse or Fitzour, held it in the time of King Stephen. From them it passed, by marriage, to the Dunboroughs, and ultimately to the families of Wyndham and Luttrell. The present Earl of Egremont is the descendant of Sir William.

The ancient borough and sea-port town of WATCHET lies within the boundaries of this parish. It is situated in a delightful vale, in the highest state of cultivation and improvement. The number of houses here, 'at the last survey, did not exceed one hundred and forty. Four streets compose the town, and are, for the most part, paved.

"This place was formerly considerable for its trade, particularly in herrings, great quantities of which were caught here; now, however, like that of other ports in this neighbourhood,

the trade of Watchet is limited to a trifling freightage of coal, kelp, alabaster, and lime-stone. The harbour has been several times cleaned out and improved, at the expence of the proprietors of the manor, and is now kept in tolerable repair.

The Danes, under Ohtor and Rhoald, landed here in the year 918, and met with the same reception which we have mentioned them to have experienced at Porlock. They were attacked by the inhabitants, soon after their debarkation, and routed with immense slaughter.* The scene of this victory is marked by three large barrows, called *Grab-barrows*, in which have been discovered several cells, containing human bones, and a variety of weapons, anciently used in war. In 987 they returned, and, unfortunately, succeeded in laying waste the town, but did no further injury.† About ten years afterwards they landed once more, when, not content with destroying the houses, they put all the inhabitants to the sword.‡ This place was one of the villas conferred by the Conqueror on Sir William Mohun, as an appendage to the castle of Dunster.

The village of *Williton* is also within this parish. It consists of two long streets, irregularly built, containing about 120 houses. At the west end is a small chapel, which possesses nothing worthy of notice. Here are the remains of four ancient crosses.

Southward from this village is the hamlet of *Orchard*, so called from the name of its first proprietor. It lies within the parish of St. Decumans, but is a tything belonging to Halsway. Near this spot is the mansion-house of the Earl of Egremont, which was originally erected by a member of the Sydenham family.§ The chapel annexed to it was built by John Sydenham and his lady, about the year 1490, by the special licence of the bishop of Bath and Wells. The western part owes its construction to the first Sir John Wyndham, whose mother, being supposed dead, is said to have been buried in the vault of St.

Decumans,

* Saxon Chron. 105. Collinson, III. 437. † Ibid, 126. ‡ Ibid, 129.

§ Leland's Itin. II. 99.

Decumans, where, happily, the sexton hearing some noise as he shut the door, was attracted by it. Listening, he discovered from whence it came, opened the coffin, and, to his utter astonishment, beheld Mrs. Wyndham alive. She was conveyed home, and soon after became a mother by the birth of Sir John.*

The church of this parish stands on an eminence, about a mile to the south of Watchet. It is a handsome structure, about a hundred and eight feet in length, and forty-eight in breadth, containing a nave, two side aisles, and a chapel. At the west end is an elegant embattled tower, eighty feet high, with a chime of five bells. St. Decumans is a prebend; the living a vicarage, and peculiar in the deanery of Dunster, and in the gift of the prebendary or his lessee.

The families of Orchard, Sydenham, and Wyndham, have their burial places in the north aisle of this church. The entrance to it from the chancel is adorned by a canopy, supported by free-stone columns, under which is the tomb of Sir John and Lady Wyndham, whose effigies, engraved at full length, in brass, surmount the whole. Under them are brass plates, containing inscriptions in their praise, which possess nothing remarkable but extraordinary length, and rusty orthography.

At the east end are two large mural tablets of black marble, on one of which are portraits in brass of a man in armour and his lady, attired according to the *costume* of the age, having their hands raised in a supplicating posture. Beneath, on a large brass plate, is this inscription, which, as it is somewhat uncommon, we shall insert at length:—

“ Here lyeth the bodies of John Wyndham, Esq. sonne of Sir John Wyndham, of Orchard, in the county of Somerset, knyght, deceased, who died (his father being living) the 25 day of August, in the year of our Lord 1572, and of his age about 56; and of Florence, his wife, one of the daughters of John Wadham, of Merefield, in the county of Somerset, Esq. and coheire of Nicholas Wadham, of Merefield aforesaid, sonne of the said John, and brother of her, the said Florence, who died the 26th day of

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Februarie,

* Collinson, III. 490.

Februarie, in the year of our Lord 1596, and of her age 53. They had issue only Sir John Wyndham, of Orchard aforesaid, who, of his dutifull affection to the memorie of his dere parents, had here placed this monument.

Maritus	{	When changeless fate to death did change my life,
	{	I pray'd it to be gentle to my wife;
Uxor	{	But shee, who hart and hand to thee did wedd,
	{	Desired nothing more than this thie bedd.
Fatum	{	I brought youre soules, that linckt were each in eithr,
	{	To rest above, your bodies here together.

The upper part of the other tablet is ornamented with two busts, cast in brass, and gilt. Between these are the arms of Wyndham, with this motto:—

Veni Doie Ihesu, veni cito.

Beneath is a Latin inscription, to the memory of Sir John Wyndham, and Lady Joan, the former of whom died in 1645, and the latter in 1633. The coat below is, *azure*, a chevron between three lions' heads erased, *or*; Wyndham: impaling, *or*, a fleur-de-lis, *azure*; Portman.

On the north wall of this aisle are other two elegant monuments, in honour of the Wyndham family. One of them is of black and white marble, and was erected to the memory of Sir William Wyndham, who distinguished himself during the revolution. The other is an alabaster monument, on which are two statues, under niches. It was constructed to the memory of Henry and George Wyndham, the former of whom seems to have been a clergyman, and the latter a naval officer.

We shall conclude our account of this parish by remarking, that several of the Wyndham family have distinguished themselves, both as statesmen and soldiers. The most famous of the former was Sir William Wyndham, Bart. secretary at war, chancellor of the exchequer, and privy counsellor, in the reign of Queen Anne. These appointments he received after the dismissal of the whig ministry, which produced so wonderful

wonderful a change in our continental affairs, and occasioned the recall of the most celebrated general of England, at a time when he had it in his power to have established his headquarters in the palace of the Tuilleries.

Sir William filled his situation, as minister, with great ability. He sat as judge at the trial of Dr. Hooper, Bishop of Bath and Wells, in which he explained the grounds of his decision with a perspicuity and force of reasoning which attracted universal admiration. As an orator he was highly esteemed, particularly in the House of Commons, where his eloquence gained him many useful partizans. Upon the death of the queen, in 1714, Sir William signed, with many others, the proclamation of his majesty, George the First, and on the thirteenth of August, seconded a motion made in the house by Sir Horace Walpole, for payment of the arrears due to the Hanoverian troops in the English service. In October following, however, he was removed from his situation as chancellor of the exchequer. He was strenuous in his opposition during the succeeding parliament, particularly in defending the peace of Utrecht. On the sixth of March, 1715, he made a motion for taking into consideration his majesty's proclamation of the fifteenth of January, for calling a new parliament, which reflected on the conduct of the last ministry of Queen Anne; a circumstance represented by him as unprecedented and unwarrantable, and dangerous to the well-being of the constitution. This motion, and the speech in its support, gave so much offence to the majority of the house, that he was ordered to be reprimanded by the speaker. He likewise exerted himself in favour of the Duke of Ormond, and the Earls of Oxford and Strafford, at the time of their impeachment. But in August following, when the rebellion broke out in Scotland, under the Earl of Mar, Sir William fell so much under suspicion, that he was apprehended at his house, at *Orchard Wyndham*, by Colonel Huske, and one of his majesty's messengers, from whom he succeeded in making his escape, but soon after surrendered himself

himself to the government. Being examined by the privy council, he was committed to the Tower, but never brought to trial. After his enlargement, he retired to this county, and died at Wells, on the seventeenth of June, 1740. His character is drawn by Pope in the following lines:—

“ Wyndham, just to freedom and the throne,
The master of our passions and his own.”

STOGUMBER

is a small market-town, situated in a valley to the south-west of the Quantock Hills. It consists of two streets, of a tolerable appearance. A market is held here every Saturday. This town gives name to an extensive parish, containing within its boundaries several villages, which it seems unnecessary to notice particularly. There were also two ancient chapels in this parish, one at a hamlet called *Hatrow*, and the other at *Rowdon*. Both of them are entirely demolished.

The church is a large edifice, of a light and handsome appearance. It is dedicated to St. Mary, and consists of a nave, chancel, north and south aisles, besides two chapels. The south aisle is surmounted by a neat embattled tower, seventy-two feet high, with a chime of fine bells. This church contains several monuments. That on the south side of the chancel is the only one we deem it necessary to mention. It is a stately tomb, in honour of Sir George Sydenham, whose effigy, in armour, lies on the entablature. Beside him are his two wives. At their feet is another female kneeling, having two swaddled infants lying before her. His first wife was Susan, daughter of John Sydenham, of Combe, Esq. and the second Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. Gilbert, of South Hams, in the county of Devon. In the churchyard is an ancient stone cross.

About two miles from the church, near the turnpike road leading from Taunton to Dunster, is *Combe Sydenham*, the ancient

cient mansion of the Sydenham family. It now presents a view of very fine ruins, shaded with beautiful ivy. Some of the old arches and staircases are pretty entire, as is also the kitchen, which appears to have been most complete and extensive. The centre of this building is adorned with a handsome tower of proportional elevation. The scenery around is very picturesque and agreeable; the narrow vale in which the mansion is situated being surrounded by lofty hills, highly cultivated, and skirted with thick woods and plantations.*

There is an alms-house in this parish, founded by one of the Sydenham family, for the benefit of six poor widows, which is endowed with a provision from the estate of *Combe Sydenham*. There is also a charity of thirteen pounds per annum, the gift of different persons, to the poor for ever.

In Stogumber and its vicinity many Roman coins, and other antiquities of that people, have been discovered. The adjoining parish of *Bicknoller* is even supposed to have derived its name from two British words, the first signifying *little*, and the latter a *treasury*, in allusion to the quantity of Roman *specie* dug up there. On an eminence above the church, in that parish, are the remains of an ancient fortification, called *Trendle Castle*, the fosse and entrance of which still remain. Westward from this, on the summit of the same hill, is another, called *Turk's Castle*, which is of much smaller dimensions. Near this spot is a beacon, commanding a view of the whole coast and adjacent country, which was of great use to the ancient inhabitants, when threatened with invasion.

On the opposite side of the Quantock Hills from the parishes we have just described, is that of *Strington*, which lies at the distance of ten miles west from Bridgewater.

This parish is particularly remarkable for a large Roman entrenchment, called *Douxborough Castle*. The form of this
camp

* There is another *Combe* near Dulverton, which also belonged to the Sydenham family; but not coming into their possession till a later period, did not receive the distinction of their name.

camp is circular. It consists of a double rampire, and a very wide and deep fosse. The whole is covered with oak coppice wood, among which may be traced vestiges of a *Prætorium*. Some have suggested, from its figure, that this camp has not been of Roman construction. The form, however, proves nothing, for it is well known that these ingenious people laid out their encampments in the manner which appeared best to suit the nature of the ground. Besides, there are other entrenchments similar to this, ascertained, beyond doubt, to have been Roman, in different parts of England. They served as winter quarters to some neighbouring station in the level country. That to which this belonged seems to have stood somewhere in the neighbourhood of *Putsham*, a hamlet in the parish of *Kilve*. This opinion is founded on the fact of a great number of coins, of Dioclesian, Gallienus, Maximus, and other emperors, being dug up there.

The church is a small building, consisting of a nave, chancel, and aisle, or chapel. The monuments in it are all modern. One of them, in the west aisle, is very elegant. It is constructed of grey and white marble. The lower part of the front is in the shape of an altar, upon which sits a weeping nymph, in flowing drapery, of excellent sculpture, embracing an urn with her right arm, and with her left wiping her tears from her cheeks. On the tablet is an inscription, in memory of John St. Albin, Esq. of Alfoxton, who died on the tenth of November, 1768.

In the churchyard stands an ancient stone cross, in tolerable repair.

STOKECOURCY is a small town, in the parish of the same name, and in the hundred of Cannington. It seems anciently to have been a borough, and indeed the chief street still preserves that name; but we do not find that it ever sent members to parliament, except once in the reign of Edward the Third. Its markets have long since been discontinued. Near this town a memorable battle was fought in the year 815. between the Saxons,
under

under the conduct of *Alston*, bishop of Sherborne, and an army of Danish marauders, in which the latter suffered a complete defeat.

A short way to the south are the ruins of the ancient mansion of the De Courcys. This structure was fortified in the time of Henry the Third, by Falk de Brent, who became proprietor of the manor by marriage with one of the females of that family. His disaffection to that monarch, and the regency which succeeded, were the occasion of this measure. But the violence and depredations committed by him, laid the king under the necessity of issuing a special order to the sheriff to have it dismantled. Whether he succeeded or not is unknown; but we rather suppose the contrary, as we find it fortified many years afterwards, when assaulted by Lord Bonville. A few broken walls, and a moat which encircled it, are all that now remain of this fortress.

There was formerly, in this parish, a priory of Benedictine monks, which was a cell belonging to the abbey of St. Mary, of Lonlay, in the diocese of Liege, in Normandy. It was supported by lands in the neighbourhood, which the pious fears of William de Faleise, for the safety of his own soul, and that of his wife, led him to bestow on that monastery. On the suppression of alien priories, the possessions of this cell were bestowed on the college of Eton, by Henry the Sixth.*

The present church of this parish was formerly the conventual belonging to the priory. The appearance of the eastern part of it is so ancient, that we conclude it to be a portion of the original building. This opinion gains strength from the structure of the arches, which are of a semicircular form, ornamented with rich capitals, according to the fashion of the age of Henry the Second, the period at which the priory was founded. In this division of the church was an ancient piece of painting of our Saviour and the twelve apostles. It was so much defaced at the time of opening an entrance under to the vestry-room,

* Collinson, I. 250.

vestry-room, that it was deemed best to remove it entirely, and put a church inscription in the place of it. The large arches in the centre support a very handsome tower. There are several monuments here in honour of different families possessing property in the parish.

In the middle of the south aisle stands a monument, in honour of John Vernai, of Fairfield, Esq. who died in the time of Henry the Sixth. It is adorned with the family arms, impaling a wivern, Brent; and those of *Risedon*, viz. three arrows; three stags' heads, the arms of Broughton, of Sandford. To the right of this tomb is an ancient stone figure of a man, in a reclining posture, belonging to another of the family of Vernai.

There is an alms-house in this parish, founded by Sir William Poulet, of Bere. There are also some other charities, the bequests of John Mascol, James Morgan, and John Meredith, Gentlemen.

The village and mansion-house of Fairfield is situated within this parish, but is included in the hundred of Williton, and tything of Honibere. The houses in the village were formerly much more numerous than at present. The original founder of the mansion is unknown. It was totally demolished, however, and rebuilt by Sir Thomas Palmer, and his grandson, during the sixteenth century. The present fabric is nearly in the form of a rhomb, open on one side, and having a square tower projecting from the middle of the building. This tower is surmounted by five pinnacles, the largest of which stands in the centre, while the remaining four occupy the corners. The surrounding scenery possesses both beauty and variety. A fine level lawn, adorned with several clusters of spreading trees of different species, extends itself in front. Behind rises an eminence, covered with thick wood, which commands an agreeable prospect, and serves as a shade to the grounds below. In this village there was formerly a chapel, mentioned in the survey of 1575 as a fair and elegant building. It was originally founded

founded in the time of Edward the First, and afterwards rebuilt by Robert Vernai. As no traces of its situation can now be discovered, it was probably demolished at the same time with the mansion-house, and never again erected.

The parish of *Cannington* gives its name to a hundred bordering on the Bristol Channel, and bounded on the east by the river Parret. The most ancient appellations of this place are *Cantetone*, *Candetone*, and *Canytone*. Much elaborate disquisition has been displayed by different antiquaries upon the derivation of these names, some maintaining that they originally came from the *Cangi*, who they think inhabited this part of the country. But this opinion seems to be founded only upon the complexion of the names themselves, and therefore is entitled to little authority.*

The town of Cannington is very neat and well built. The principal houses form one street; part of it is called *Gournay Street*, from an ancient family of that name. One of these houses was formerly the mansion of the lords of Clifford. Leland says, Cannington is "a praty uplandisch town;" and indeed it seems, if we may judge from the meaning of its name, to have been particularly distinguished in ancient times for the regularity and compactness of its buildings.

Cannington, several centuries ago, possessed a priory of Benedictine nuns, dedicated to the Virgin Mary.† This institution was founded by Robert de Courcy, whose family, as we have seen, gave their name to a neighbouring parish. He was of Norman extraction, and faithfully attended the person of the Empress Maud, during her troubles and distresses; but giving up all concern in public affairs, many years before his death,

* See Gough's Camden. Horsley's *Britannia Romana*, p. 31. Musgrave's *Julii Vit. Epit.* p. 76, 77. Plott's *Staffordshire*, c. x. § 4. Gibson's *Discourse upon Roman Antiquities*, discovered near Conquest, Langtoft's *Chronicle*, p. 445.

† Leland says the church of this priory "was hard annexed to the east of the parish church." *Itin.* II. 92.

death, he retired to the family seat of his ancestors, at Stoke Courcy. The endowments made by this gentleman to the nunnery were extremely liberal; comprising the principal part of his landed property. At the suppression of monasteries, in the reign of Henry the Eighth, that monarch bestowed these possessions on Edward Rogers, whose descendants enjoyed them till the year 1670, when they again escheated to the crown. King Charles the Second conferred them, by grant, on Thomas Lord Clifford, of Chudleigh.*

In this parish there were formerly a number of places of considerable note; but they are now entirely fallen to decay, while others have risen on their ruins, but in other parts of the county. The village of *Combbwick*, vulgarly called *Cummidge*, is celebrated as the residence of a famous Rosecrusian chemist, who died in 1581, and was buried according to his own desire, at Otterhampton.† It had anciently a chapel, near which was kept a passage-boat, for crossing the Parret. Cannington church is dedicated to St. Mary, and was originally appropriated to the priory. The living is a vicarage appendant to the manor.

The appearance and structure of this church is extremely good; Leland calls it "fair and well adorned." It is divided into a nave, chancel, and side ailes. At the west end is an elegant embattled tower, containing a clock and five bells.

The south window of the chancel is adorned with these arms: *Sable*, six mullets. *Argent*, 3, 2, 1.

Argent, on a chevron, *Sable*, between three trefoils of the second, three mullets, or ermine, a bend *sable*.

The windows of the nave are also embellished with paintings of coats of arms. On one of them are these words—*Dratz pro bono statu Edwardi Basing*; and, at a little distance—*Dratz pro aia Leonardi Filly Arnug. et pro bono statu Johanne, nuper consortis suai*.

In the chancel is a vault, the property of the Clifford family, which

* Collinson, I. 232.

† *Athenæ Oxon.* II. 659.

which is surrounded by an iron pallisade, curiously ornamented. There are several monuments here and in other parts of the church, as well some tables of benefactions, which we shall pass over without particular notice.

Enmore parish is situated in the hundred of Andersfield, about three miles east from the Quantock Hills, and six from the river Parret. The whole grounds of the parish are considerably above the level of the country in its immediate neighbourhood.

At the time of the conquest, the property of this manor belonged to Robert de Curcelle, descended from a noble family in Normandy. Soon after, however, it came into the possession of the Mallets, who continued to enjoy it till the seventeenth century, when it fell to the celebrated Earl of Rochester, by marriage with Elizabeth, only daughter and heiress of John Mallet, Esq. His lordship left three daughters co-heiresses, the eldest of whom obtained this manor, and married Henry Bayntum, of Sky-Park, Esq. whose descendant, Sir Edward Bayntum Rolt, sold it to James Smith, of St. Andrees, Esq. This gentleman soon after conveyed it to John, Earl of Egmont, father of the present peer.

Enmore Castle, the country seat of that noble family, is situated in this parish. The present building is in the anticomodern style, and was erected by the late earl. The whole was designed and planned by that nobleman himself. The figure of this structure is quadrangular, embattled on every side, having a semicircular bastion at each corner, with a spacious court in the interior. The stones exhibit a peculiar appearance, being of a dark reddish colour. It is surrounded by a dry ditch, sixteen feet deep and forty wide. The entrance is from the east, through a gateway, defended by a drawbridge of very curious construction. In the hall there are a number of busts and coats of arms. A geometrical staircase leads to the upper apartments, which are profusely embellished with paintings. The stables and out offices are all under ground. The principal way into them is at some distance

tance from the castle. The latter stands on a gentle eminence, commanding a rich and extensive prospect, particularly towards the Bristol Channel. On every side the country is finely cultivated and enclosed, and adorned with neat villas and elegant shrubbery.

The church is a Gothic structure, eighty-eight feet long and twenty wide, consisting of a nave and chancel. At the west end is a tower, in the form of a square, and embattled, having a clock and five bells. Here are some neat marble monuments; and in the churchyard stands an ancient cross, in tolerable preservation, also a fine old yew-tree, the trunk of which measures nineteen feet in circumference near the base.

Goathurst is a parish, lying in the immediate neighbourhood of that which we have now described. It derived its name from two Saxon words, signifying, the woods abounding with goats. It is still famous for the size and beauty of its trees.

After the conquest, the manor of Goathurst was possessed by persons of the name of Gaherst. It next fell to the family of Poulett, and subsequently to the Halswells and Tyntes.*

The present mansion house at Halswell is a very noble and elegant building. It was erected upon the foundation of the old house, by Sir Halswell Tynte, in the year 1689. The front rooms are a parlour, a saloon, and a drawing-room, with a library and staircase in each wing, or end. Over the saloon is an elegant room of the same dimensions, having the windows on a level with the floor, and a handsome balcony before them. The staircase, and several of the apartments, are hung round with many excellent paintings, by Bartholomew, Vandyke, Sir Peter Lely, and others.

The enclosures around this mansion perhaps exhibit the finest scenery in this part of England. They are so fully and accurately described by the ingenious Arthur Young, Esq. that we trust our readers will pardon us for quoting his account of them at full length:—"The riding which leads to the principal

* Collinson, I. 80.

cipal points of view, crosses the park from the house, commanding a fine view of the rich vale of Bridgewater. It then runs by the side of a woody precipice, and up through some new plantations, from a dark part of which you enter through a door into a temple, dedicated to Robin Hood, upon which a most noble prospect breaks at once upon the beholder, which acts not a little by the surprise of the entrance. The ground shelves from it in front, and to the right gradually, but to the left in bolder slopes, where the dips are beautifully grouped with wood, and the hills above them rise in waving inclosures.

About the house the groves thicken, and a vast vale of rich inclosures, spotted in a beautiful manner with white objects, stretches beyond it to the distance of twelve miles. Then you command the Channel, which is here nine miles over, the Steep Holm rising in the midst of it very boldly, and beyond these the mountains of Wales rise one behind another.

From hence the riding leads up the hills, commanding, all the way, a most extensive prospect; after which it turns down through a plantation, to a single oak, with a few pales about it, and a bench. Here the grounds, sinking from the eye, form a most sweet landscape. The lawns undulate in the finest manner, and the groves of oak seem to drop into the hollows. The clumps and scattered trees have an uncommon elegance, and unite the fore-ground of the scene with Robin Hood's temple, which is here seen to great advantage. Beyond the whole you have a distant extensive prospect. From hence the riding leads down the hill to a wood of noble oaks, which shade a spot beautifully wild and sequestered, where a limpid spring rises at the foot of a rock, overhung, in a fine bold manner, by wood growing by its clefts. The water winds away through the grove in a proper manner. Here is a tablet with these lines:—

“ When Israel's wand'ring sons the desert trod,
The melting rock obey'd the prophet's rod,
Forth gush'd the stream; the tribes their thirst allay'd,
Forgetful of their God, they rose, and play'd.

Ye happy swains, for whom these waters flow,
O may your hearts with grateful ardours glow ;
Lo ! here a fountain streams, at his command,
Not o'er a barren but a fruitful land ;
Where nature's choicest gifts the vallies fill,
And smiling plenty gladdens every hill."

Turning the corner, you catch a bridge, under a thick shade, and then come to the Druid's temple, built in a just style, of bark, &c. the view quite gloomy and confined ; the water winds silently along, except a little gushing fall, which hurts not the emotions raised by so sequestered a scene.

Following the path towards the bridge, you catch, just before you come at, a little landscape, through the trees, of distant water, finely united with wood. From the bridge the river appears to great advantage, nobly embanked on one side with tall spreading trees, and on the other with green slopes, in which single ones are scattered.

From these retired and gloomy spots, you leave the dark groves, and open into a more cheerful ground. The river is bounded only on one side by thick wood, and on the other by waving lawns, open to the fields, and scattered thinly with trees. From a bench on the banks, you view a slight fall of water, well shaded.

As we advance, the character of the ground again changes most happily ; the wood, open on both sides the water ; the waving lawns are of the most lively verdure ; trees thinly scattered ; brighter streams ; touches of distant prospect, and elegant buildings ; all unite to raise the most cheerful ideas, which we are prepared for, by gradually leaving the gloom of the sequestered woods.

A break through the trees, to the right, lets in a view of the rotunda. Passing to the Ionic portico, which is excellently placed, the scenery in view is truly enchanting ; the lawn is gently waved, and spotted with trees and shrubs in the happiest taste. The water seems to wind naturally through a falling vale ; and a swelling hill, crowned by the rotunda, forms a complete

complete picture. The whole scene is really elegant; every part is riant, and bears the stamp of pleasure.

As you cross the bridge, you look to the right on a very beautiful cascade, which makes five or six falls over a moss and ivy bank, under a dark shade of wood. The slopes, wood, and water, unite to render the scenery striking.

Turning down by the water, the lawn continues very beautiful, and you gain a fine view of the Ionic portico on a rising slope, which here appears to great advantage; but the middle cascade, which you here command, should be totally hid. It is an inferior repetition of the principal one.

Rising the hill, by the side of the water, you have, from a bench under a spreading wood, an agreeable view of the bridge; and a little further another commands the same object, and has also a very pleasing opening through the trees to the portico. The view to the left, up to the river, is a confirmation of Shenstone's observation.

The riding which follows on the bank of the river, under the gloomy shade of numerous venerable trees, is a fit residence for contemplation to dwell in. The openings across the water, on the opposite lawn, are just sufficient to heighten by contrast. The awful shade, the solemn stillness of the scene, broken by nothing but the fall of distant waters, have altogether a great effect, and impress upon the mind a melancholy scarcely effaced by the cheerful view of a rich vale, with the water winding through it, which is seen on crossing the park towards the house. This seat has received gifts from nature, and very pleasing ones from art. The riding is of large extent, and commands a great variety of distant prospect and rich landscapes. The home scenes are elegant, and set off by the shade of such noble wood, that every impression they make is rendered forcible. The buildings are in a light and pleasing style."

The church is ancient, and dedicated to St. Edward. At the west end rises a handsome embattled tower, sixty-three feet high, having a clock and six bells. The appearance of

this church is greatly injured by having been white-washed. The living is rectorial, and in the deanery of Bridgewater; the patronage appendant to the manor.

In the chancel stands an altar-piece, containing two old paintings; one of them is a representation of our Lord's Supper, and the other, the Raising of the Cross. Neither of them are well executed.

The north wall of the nave is adorned with a very handsome white marble monument, in the shape of an altar, and terminated by a statue, in a canonical habit. It was erected in 1742, by Sir Charles Kemneys Tynte, in honour of his brother, the Rev. Sir John Tynte, Baronet, who died rector of this church. In the churchyard is an old tomb, having upon it a square pillar, of peculiar appearance, ornamented with emblematical carvings, and surmounted by a flaming urn. In this parish is a poor-house, erected by Sir Charles Tynte.

Eastling is a parish in a disjointed part of the hundred of Andersfield, about seven miles to the south of Bridgewater, and five from Langport. The grounds of this parish are in general low, damp, and unhealthy: a great part of it is covered with wood. The river Tone is navigable from hence to Taunton.

What principally distinguishes *Eastling* is the *Isle of Athelney*; being a spot of rising ground, between the hamlet of Boroughbridge and the church. It derived its name from two Saxon words, signifying the isle of nobles.

This spot is rendered famous as the asylum of the illustrious Alfred,* whose heroism in adversity, and wisdom in prosperity, are almost equally the objects of our admiration. Hume says, "that the merit of this prince may, with advantage, be set in opposition to that of any monarch or citizen, which the annals of any age or any nation can present to us." Indeed, we know not whether to praise him most for his civil or his military virtues, excepting only that the former being more rare among princes, as well as more useful, seem chiefly to challenge our applause. Alfred founded Athelney Abbey, for monks of the

Benedictine

* Vide ante, p. 341.

Benedictine order, and dedicated it to St. Saviour and St. Peter. The extent of this building, William of Malmshury tells us, was moderate when compared to the monasteries of Wells or Glastonbury; but possessed peculiarity of structure, and beauty of embellishment. Indeed the ruins, at different times discovered here, are calculated to impress us with a high idea of its architectural elegance. The *religieuse* are represented by the same author as few in number and poor, though amply compensated for their deficiency in riches, by the “tranquillity of their lives, and their delight in solitude.” All of them were at first foreigners, there being none in England that would assume the habit.

Of the buildings of this monastery not a vestige now remains. The field on which it stood is wholly under tillage. In 1674, some labourers, who were employed to remove a part of the ruins, discovered a very ancient stone coffin, containing a skull, the os ilium, and a piece of cloth: this receptacle was so excavated as to suit the form of the different members of the body. The same individuals afterwards found many pieces of sculptured free-stone, retaining marks of painting and gilding, together with a golden spear, probably the gift of Alfred.* About forty years ago a vault was thrown open at the distance of sixty yards from the present farm-house, in which three human skulls were discovered. This vault was eight feet square, and seven high. Near it lay the ruins of a chapel, which were removed at the same period.†

There is deposited, in the museum at Oxford, a curious amulet of enamel and gold, richly ornamented. It was found in Newton Park, a little to the north of the abbey, in the year 1693. On one side is a rude figure, crowned and seated, having in each hand a sceptre, surmounted by a lily. Some antiquaries have supposed this figure to represent St. Cuthbert, who is said to have appeared to Alfred in a dream, when secluded there; but we incline to think it the king himself. At least, the legend on the other side, AELFRD MEC HEIT

P p 4

GEVVRCAN,

* Aubrey's Miscellany, p. 15.

† Collinson, I. 88.

GEVVRCAN, *Alfred ordered me to be made*, together with the appendages of royalty already mentioned, render this supposition the more probable.

At a village called *Boroughbridge*, which is partly in this and partly in other parishes, there is a large burrow or mount, generally considered as natural, but which we conceive to be a sepulchral tumulus, and consequently the work of art. Our opinion is framed from the materials composing it not being found nearer than three miles. It is further supported by the fact, that this part of the country was the scene of many battles in ancient times, as the variety of weapons found here, unknown in modern warfare, sufficiently authenticate. The mount has on it the ruins of a chapel, built in the form of a cross. Part of the tower, and the main walls are still standing, "and form a very singular and picturesque object." This chapel was appendant to the abbey of Athelney.

The parish church of Eastling is a neat building, divided into a nave, chancel, and porch. The tower is built of free-stone, and rises to the height of sixty feet. There are no monuments or inscriptions in this church.

On the opposite side of the Parret, and north-west from Langport, lies the parish of *Aller*, which shares, with Athelney, the glory derived from the name of Alfred. The former, sheltered him from the fury of his enemies, and the latter beheld him receive the first pledge of their submission. Though he had reduced the invaders to the last extremity he offered them terms of peace both generous and politic; and only required, in testimony of the sincerity of their intentions, that they should declare their conversion to christianity. To this they agreed, and the sacrament of baptism was administered to the whole army at Aller. Alfred himself stood sponsor for the Danish chief, gave him the name of Athelstan, and received him as his adopted son.

Nor is there wanting other events to render Aller famous in the annals of this country. An action was fought here between
the

the royalists and the parliamentary forces, in the year 1645, commonly called the Battle of Aller Moor. It has also the honour of being the birth-place of the celebrated Mr. Ralph Cudworth.

This great philosopher and divine, son to Dr. Cudworth, rector of this parish, was born in 1617. The death of his father, while he was yet very young, and the subsequent marriage of his mother, transferred the superintendence of his education to his father-in-law, Dr. Stroughton. This gentleman did not neglect the trust reposed in him. He saw the rising genius of our philosopher, and gave him every encouragement in the prosecution of his studies. In 1630 he procured him to be admitted pensioner of Emanuel College, Cambridge. Here he took the degrees of B. A. and M. A. soon after which he was chosen fellow, and became eminent as a tutor. Among his pupils at this period was the celebrated Sir William Temple. His next step was a presentation to the rectory of North Cudbury, in 1641; and the year following he commenced his career as an author, by the publication of a discourse concerning the true notion of the Lord's Supper. About the same period appeared his treatise, entitled 'The Union of Christ and the Church, a Shadow.'

In 1644 Mr. Cudworth obtained the degree of B. D. and in the theses he wrote on this occasion gave strong evidence of those powers of philosophical research which distinguished his more mature productions. The same year he was appointed master of Clare Hall, in the room of Dr. Parke, who was ejected by the parliamentary visitors; and Dr. Metcalf having shortly after resigned his chair as regius professor of Hebrew, he was unanimously elected to succeed him. He now abandoned all his clerical functions, and devoted his attention solely to his academical pursuits. We find him, however, preaching before the House of Commons in 1647. For this sermon he received the thanks of the house, which induced him to publish it, with a dedication to his honourable audience.

In 1651 he took the degree of D. D. and in 1654 was chosen master of Christ's College, Cambridge. In this situation he remained till his death, which took place at Cambridge, in June, 1688.

The most celebrated work of this author is his "Intellectual System," published in 1678. Its professed object was to confute "all the reason and philosophy of atheism." Dr. Cudworth's mode of stating his argument is fair and candid in the highest degree: he not only enforces his own opinions, but fully illustrates those of his antagonists. This candour, however, did not gain him much favour, as may be supposed, even among those whose notions he supported. Speaking of Cudworth, Lord Shaftesbury says, "you know the common fate of those who dare to appear fair authors. What was that pious learned man's case who wrote the Intellectual System of the Universe? I confess it was pleasant enough to consider, that though the whole world were no less satisfied with his capacity and learning than with his sincerity in the cause of the Deity, yet was he accused of giving the upper hand to the atheists, for having only stated their reasons and those of their adversaries fairly together." He followed the opinions of Plato and the latter Platonists, maintaining the existence of a plastic nature, subordinate to the Supreme Being, which organizes the bodies of animals, and produces a variety of other phenomena. He contended against the doctrine of necessity, in all its views, and for such "a liberty, or *sui potestas*," in rational creatures, as makes them accountable for all their actions.

This was the only philosophical work published by Dr. Cudworth during his life. His posthumous writings were numerous; but none of them have come forth into the world except "A Treatise concerning Eternal and Immutable Morality," intended as a continuation of his Intellectual System, and especially severe on the writings of Hobbes, who had revived the opinions of Protagoras, denying any essential difference between moral good and evil.

Dr.

Dr. Cudworth is universally allowed to have been a man of extensive erudition, and capacious powers of thinking. He was well acquainted with the learned languages, a good antiquary, an excellent mathematician, and a profound philosopher. Lord Shaftesbury styles him “an excellent divine, of highest authority at home, and fame abroad.” Indeed whether we consider him as a writer, or a man, he does equal honour to the country which gave him birth.*

The church of Aller is dedicated to St. Andrew. It is a small ancient edifice, with a tower at the west end. A very fine Saxon arch forms a sort of canopy over the southern entrance, which is adorned with a curious antique carving of a pelican and her young. The effigy of Sir Reginald de Boreaux lies in a recess in the north wall of the chancel; and the churchyard contains another mutilated figure, supposed also to belong to that noble family.

BRIDGEWATER

is a populous borough and market-town, situated upon the river Parret. The derivation of its name is uncertain, some supposing it to be a compound of the words—“*Bridge and Water* ;” and others, that it is a corruption of *Bruggia*, *Brugge*, or *Burgh-Walter*, its original appellations. The latter opinion is certainly the more probable, and that which best corresponds with the general etymology of towns and villages.

The aspect of the country around Bridgewater is flat and woody. Both soil and climate are favourable to agriculture, the interest of which is studiously promoted by the noble earl who derives his title from this town. The river being navigable to ships of considerable tonnage, enables the inhabitants to trade directly with any part of the world. The rapidity and boldness of the tide, however, often prove injurious to the smaller vessels, as it advances, sometimes no less than two fathoms in depth, in one current. This is probably, in part, the reason why

* Biog. Brit. Gen. Biog. Dict.

why Bridgewater enjoys little commerce, except in coals and timber.

The extent and population of this town, though still considerable, are much inferior to what they formerly were. It was first constituted a free borough, by King John, in the year 1200. At this time its government was vested in a *præpositus* or reeve, but upon the renewal of the charter, by Edward the Fourth, that office was annulled, and a mayor and two bailiffs ordered to be appointed. Subsequent grants conferred additional privileges. Henry the Eighth even erected it into an independent county: hence the Sheriffs of Somerset cannot send a process into this borough. A mayor, a recorder, two aldermen, with the powers of justices of the peace, and twenty-four common council men now manage the affairs of the town. Besides these there are two bailiffs annually chosen from the common council, to act in the capacity of sheriffs. The revenues of this corporation, arising chiefly from landed property and tythes, amount to more than ten thousand pounds a year. The freemen are free of all the ports in England and Ireland, London and Dublin excepted. Bridgewater has been represented in parliament since the reign of Edward the First. All the inhabitants paying scot and lot are entitled to vote at the general elections. The mayor is the legal returning officer. A market is held here three times a week. The market-house is spacious and convenient: it is a new building of brick, and stands at the top of the High Street, in the vicinity of the church.*

Bridgewater does not seem to have been a place of any note during the time of the Romans. Some have supposed it, but without sufficient show of reason, to have risen on the ruins of a Roman colony, planted to the west of Poulden Hill, where a number of coins have been found at different periods. In the reign of Edward the Confessor, it was the private property of Merlesuain, a Saxon lord. The Conqueror bestowed it on Walter de Dowai, from whom the latter part of its name is supposed to have been derived. This gentleman was succeeded by

a son

* Collinson, III. 79.

a son of his own name, whose daughter and heiress married a person of the name of Paganel. Her son, Fulke Paganel, with the view of ingratiating himself with Henry the Second, whose favour he had lost, conveyed it over to William de Briwere, to be held by him in knight's fee. The family of Briwere, greatly improved their property, and indeed laid the foundation of the future prosperity of Bridgewater.

The second William de Briwere dying without issue, the manor of Bridgewater fell to his eldest sister, Græcia, wife of William de Braose, Lord of Brecknock, Radnor, and Aberga-venny, and one of the greatest barons of his age. This nobleman was succeeded by a son, also called William, who was assassinated by Llewellyn, Prince of Wales, leaving four daughters to inherit his estates. The eldest, Maud, married Roger Mortimer, who gave his third son, William, the patrimony of this manor. He died without issue, leaving Edmund, Lord Mortimer, his eldest brother, heir to his property. In this family, afterwards created Earls of March, it continued through several successions. At length, an heir female of the last Earl of March, married Richard, Duke of York, through whom the manor became annexed to the crown.

The borough of Bridgewater, and outmanor of Haygrove, fell to the share of Eve, second daughter of De Broase, and wife of William de Cantilupe. This William had a son named George, but he dying without children, his elder sister, Millicent, and John de Hastings, son of the younger, were found to be next in succession. The manor of Bridgewater was declared to belong to Millicent, who had married Eudo, Lord Zouch. Upon the attainder of John, Lord Zouch and Seymour, it was given to Giles, Lord d'Aubeny, for life, with a reversion to the heirs of Lord Zouch. Lord d'Aubeny was appointed constable of the castles of Richmond and Bridgewater. Henry the Eighth created his lordship's son Earl of Bridgewater, in 1539. At his death the title became extinct by failure of heirs male, but was revived by James the First, in the person of John Egerton, Baron of Ellesmere, and Viscount Brackley.

Brackley. George the First advanced this family to the dignity of Dukes of Bridgewater. The death of the late duke, without issue, rendered the dukedom extinct. He was succeeded in the earldom by the present peer.

Both before and after the death of Lord d'Aubeny, we find the castle and borough of Bridgewater, at times held by the queens of England. Charles the Second conferred the manor, together with the castle, the manor of Haygrove, and many valuable immunities, on Sir William Whitmore, Knt. and George Whitmore, Esq. their heirs, and assignees, to be held of the crown, in free and common soccage. The family of Harvey soon after purchased the castle, and the manor of Haygrove. The former was leased out by them, to the king's governor, during the great rebellion.

The corporation of Bridgewater have a manor peculiar to themselves.*

The most considerable part of Bridgewater formerly stood on the east side of the river. Now, however, the principal streets are on the western bank, but communicate with the rest of the town by an ancient bridge of three arches, begun by the first William de Briwere, and completed by Sir Thomas Trivet, in the reign of Edward the First. The quay lies to the north of the bridge, and is large and commodious. There were four gates to this town, but, according to Leland, these were intended merely as ornaments, the town never having been at any time walled with a view to defence. It has often suffered considerable injury by fire and other causes.

The same author, who visited it in 1538, informs us, that in the memory of people then living, upwards of two hundred houses had fallen to decay. During the commonwealth the greatest part of the town was burnt to ashes, by the forces under Sir William Fairfax, for maintaining their allegiance to the unfortunate Charles.

The castle, which formed the chief security to the inhabitants

* Collinson, III. 80, 81, 82.

tants in times of danger, stands on the west side of the quay. It is now reduced to a very few ruins, but in days of yore was a large and noble structure, and the government of it, a post of great distinction. The fortifications were strong and regular: the number of guns mounted exceeded forty; the walls measured fifteen feet in thickness, and the moat thirty in breadth. This last was of great depth, and was every tide filled with water. In short, such were its advantages from nature and art, that in the year 1645 it was considered impregnable by the governor, Colonel Wyndham, against all the forces of parliament. This officer, indeed, defended it with great bravery for a considerable time: but the damage necessarily sustained by the town, even from his own shot, finally induced him to surrender, and prevent the further effusion of blood, and needless waste of property, in a hopeless cause. The booty got at this time, by the forces of the parliament, was immense, the declaration of the governor, relative to the strength of the castle, having enticed the inhabitants of both town and country to deposit in it all their treasure and valuables. The Castle Field was the place on which the unfortunate Duke of Monmouth encamped after being proclaimed king at Taunton.*

The hospital, dedicated to St. John, owed its erection to William Briwere, in the reign of Henry the Third. The monks of this priory were of the order of St. Augustine, and obliged, by their deed of gift, to support thirteen poor persons, independent of the religious and pilgrims. This institution was afterwards confirmed by Joceline, Bishop of Bath, who ordained that it "should be free, pure, and perpetual, for indigent persons only." The brethren wore the clerical habit common to hospitallers, with the distinction of a black cross stamped on their mantles and outer garments. Two or three women, of good fame and conversation, were admitted and supported, for the purpose of attending the sick.

This hospital was endowed with considerable possessions in
Bridgewater,

* Collinson, III. 76.

Bridgewater, North Petherton, Cheddar, and other parishes. Several churches in this county, as well as in Cornwall, were appropriated to it. The advowson of the rectory of Chilton and Idstoke also belonged to the master and brethren. The lords of the manor were the patrons, according to their shares of the property. The hospital was, of course, for some time under the patronage of the queens of England, whom we have mentioned as possessing several divisions of the manor. At the dissolution of religious houses, the site, and buildings upon it, were granted to Humphrey Rolles. Only a very small part of the ruins are now to be seen. They are situated at a short distance from the east gate.

The church of Bridgewater is a large handsome building, dedicated to the honour of St. Mary. It consists of a nave, chancel, and two side ailes. The tower, surmounted by a very fine spire, is one of the loftiest in England, being one hundred and seventy-four feet in height. The altar-piece is a beautiful painting, the gift of the Hon. Anne Poulett, many years member for the town. It is a representation of our Saviour, with his head reclining upon the lap of his favourite disciple John, who is represented in the deepest anguish of sorrow. The Virgin Mary lies swooning, having her head supported by the wife of Cephas, who hangs over her with the mingled expression of grief, dismay, and affection. On the back-ground is Mary Magdalen, standing with her right hand thrown back, her left raised equal with her head, and her eyes raised to heaven. The whole attitude is finely expressive of devotion and humility. The artist of this piece deserves the highest praise, but unfortunately his name is unknown, at least extremely uncertain.

Several ancient families had their burial places in this church; but there are no monuments now remaining worthy of notice.

A short distance from the church is an excellent free-school, built of stone. The town-hall is a fine large building, having a cistern beneath it, from which the inhabitants are supplied
with

with water. Here four sessions are held annually, for the trial of all crimes committed within the jurisdiction, and not punished with death. There is also a court of record every Monday, to take cognizance of debts. The rules and practice of this court accord with those of the Common Pleas. Several denominations of dissenters have meeting-houses here; and what is extremely singular, and as far as we know the custom nowhere else, the magistrates and corporation have pews in one of them for the accommodation of such of their members as may be of that persuasion.

Robert Blake, one of the bravest and most fortunate admirals of England, was born in this town, in the year 1599. After passing the usual period at the grammar-school, he entered St. Alban's Hall, in the university of Oxford, but soon removed to Wadham College. Previous to leaving the university, he wrote an elegy on the death of Camden. As he advanced in life, he showed a decided bias towards republican principles; and when the war broke out, declared in favour of the parliament. In 1643 he distinguished himself, for the first time, in the defence of Bristol, being entrusted by Colonel Fiennes, the governor, with the command of a little fort on the line. When the colonel was obliged to surrender to Prince Rupert, who commanded the royal army during this siege, Blake for some time refused to comply with the articles of capitulation, which so exasperated the prince that he threatened to hang him. His friends only prevented the execution of this threat, by pleading his inexperience of military usages.* His next exploit was the taking of Taunton, in conjunction with Sir Robert Pye. Of this place he was appointed governor, by the parliament, in 1644, a step which evinced great confidence in his bravery and talents, as it was the only garrison belonging to the republican government in the west of England. His conduct here did not dissappoint the hopes reposed in him; for notwithstanding the defenceless state of the town, with

* Clarendon's History, III. 602.

regard to fortifications, he succeeded in maintaining it against all the forces sent to retake it. Even when Goring got possession of a great part of the town, he continued to occupy the other portion, and the castle, till relieved by the advance of the parliamentary forces. For this service the parliament voted him a present of five hundred pounds. When the resolution passed to vote no more addresses to the king, Blake joined in an address by the town of Taunton, expressive of the propriety of that measure. At the time of the trial of King Charles, however, he declared his disapprobation of it, and was frequently heard to say, he would venture his life to save that of the monarch with as much willingness as ever he exposed it for the parliament. These expressions were probably more the effusions of feeling than the dictates of principle, as in all his future conduct he was clearly a republican, and an inveterate enemy to kingly power.

It was not till the year 1649 that Blake began his naval career. He was then in his fiftieth year, a fact which shows that age is not incompatible with the advances of genius and valour. At this time he was united in command with Colonels Deane and Popham. His first expedition was in pursuit of Prince Rupert, whom he found lying in the harbour of Kinsale, in Ireland. Here the prince kept close, till finding that Cromwell was advancing by land, and would easily take the town, he determined to cut his way through Blake's squadron. In this he succeeded, with the loss of three ships, and directed his course to Lisbon, in order to place himself under the protection of his Portuguese majesty. Blake pursued him; and on his arrival at Lisbon, being refused permission to attack him, he seized a number of ships bound to Portugal from the Brazils, and sent them to England. In the mean time the prince got out, and sailed for Carthagera. The admiral followed, and met with the same refusal from the Spanish governor as from the Portuguese monarch. Advices, however, were sent to Madrid; but before any thing was determined

mined upon, the prince set sail for Malaga, where our admiral soon after attacked him, and destroyed his whole fleet, with the exception of two ships. During his voyage home he also took several French ships of war and merchantmen, for all which services he received the thanks of parliament, and was appointed warden of the Cinque Ports.

The year following these transactions, he reduced Guernsey, and the isles of Scilly, which still held out for the king, and again received the thanks of parliament. The prospect of a Dutch war now induced the government to give him the sole command of the fleet for the space of nine months. On the nineteenth of May, 1652, with only twenty-three ships, he attacked Van Tromp, who is generally esteemed one of the first admirals of Holland, though he had double that force, and after a desperate engagement compelled him to retreat. During the month of June he took upwards of forty prizes. In July he fell in with a fleet of herring-busses, under convoy of twelve men of war, the whole of whom, except a few of the former, were either taken or destroyed. In September following he attacked the Dutch fleet off their own coast; and had it not been for the interference of the night, which favoured their escape, the whole would have fallen into his hands. Shortly after, having been obliged to make several detachments from his fleet, Van Tromp bore down upon him, with eighty sail of the line. He immediately called a council of war, when it was resolved to fight, though inferior by nearly half the number of ships. The engagement began about two in the morning, and lasted till six in the evening. The admiral finding that his ships were much disabled, and the Dutch had the advantage of the wind, drew off his fleet into the Thames, with the loss of the *Garland* and *Bonaventure*, which were taken by the Dutch. Van Tromp, however, had nothing to boast of from this victory, one of his flag-ships being blown up, and several others rendered unfit for service. It nevertheless, such as it was, so much elated the pride of the Dutch

admiral, that he sailed up the Channel with a broom at his mast-head, to denote that he had swept the seas of the English. He did not, however, enjoy his triumph long. Blake got his fleet speedily repaired, and being joined by several ships under Monke and Deane, sailed out in quest of the enemy. On the eighteenth of February he discovered Van Tromp, with seventy sail of the line, and a large fleet under convoy. He immediately bore down upon them, and took or sunk six men of war. Next day he continued in pursuit, and coming up with them towards evening, immediately attacked them. On the twentieth a severe action took place, which commenced early in the morning, and continued till two in the afternoon, when the Dutch, favoured by the wind, were enabled to secure themselves on the flats of Dunkirk and Calais. The loss of the enemy, during these two days, was five men of war and thirteen merchant vessels. The English had one ship sunk. Not long after this period, the parliament was dismissed by Cromwell, who assumed the title of Protector. Upon this event, it was generally imagined that Blake would have thrown up the command of the fleet; and this was the supposition of the Dutch, but they found themselves mistaken. When the admiral heard of it, he said to his officers, "it is not for us to mind state affairs, but to keep foreigners from fooling us;" a saying extremely just, and the example of which has lately taught the powers of Europe a lesson of experience, which we trust will long be remembered. Accordingly Blake and his colleagues sailed for the coast of Holland, with a hundred sail, and forced the Dutch to take shelter in the Texel. The admiral having sailed to the northward, left Monke and Deane to watch the enemy. Van Tromp perceiving the diminution of the English force, got out, and having collected a fleet of one hundred and twenty men of war, attacked them, but met with a warm reception. This was on the third of June; and Blake having joined on the fourth, the English gained a complete victory. Calais sands alone prevented the total destruction

tion of the Dutch fleet. The admiral now returned home, and having taken his seat in parliament, received their solemn thanks in person. He was soon after appointed one of the commissioners of the admiralty. In 1654 he set sail for the Mediterranean, vested with discretionary powers. His presence soon terrified the Algerines into submission; but the Dey of Tunis haughtily answered the officer sent to demand the release of the English prisoners in his dominions, "here are our castles of Goletta and Porto Ferino, do your worst: do you think we fear your fleet?" Blake immediately ordered an attack. The castles were soon silenced, and rendered defenceless. Not a ship in the harbour escaped destruction; so that the haughty Dey was convinced, when too late, that resistance was vain. The splendour of this action spread the terror of his name through Asia and Africa. The states of Italy also felt alarmed, and courted the friendship of England. In particular the Duke of Tuscany, and the republic of Venice, sent magnificent embassies for that purpose. The Spanish war, however, still continued, and Blake lost no opportunity of annoying their commerce. Having left Captain Stainer off Cadiz, till he himself returned from watering in Portugal, that officer fell in with a division of the Plate fleet, and took the vice-admiral and another galleon. Blake, upon his return, got intelligence that the other division had sought refuge at Santa Cruz, in the island of Teneriffe. Hither he sailed with twenty-five ships of the line; and having summoned the governor without effect, instantly advanced to the attack, and, to the astonishment of Europe, succeeded in destroying the forts, and burning the whole fleet. For this extraordinary achievement the parliament voted him their thanks, and accompanied them with a ring worth five hundred pounds. Blake returned to Cadiz, where he cruized for some time; but finding his health declining, he sailed for England. Unfortunately, however, he died at the moment the fleet was entering Plymouth, in the fifty-eighth year of his age. His body was conveyed to West-

minster Abbey, where he was buried with great pomp and solemnity, in Henry the Seventh's Chapel, but was soon after re-interred in St Margaret's churchyard.*

Blake must undoubtedly be allowed to be one of the greatest naval commanders any age or country ever produced. During the short space of eight years, the whole period of his command in the fleet, he almost ruined the maritime power of the several nations at war with England, and commanded respect from every other. He first, perhaps, inspired our seamen with that ardent enthusiasm and irresistible valour which give this country at present the empire of the ocean. In intrepidity his actions resemble the exploits of the lamented Nelson, and will carry down his name with glory to the latest era of naval history.

Weston Zoyland lies five miles to the south-east of Bridgewater. The river Parret washes it on the south and south-west, and divides it from the parish of North Petherton. The original name of this parish was *Weston-in-Zoyland*, or *Sowylan*. The village is situated in the vicinity of the church. The hamlet of *Bussex* lies a short way to the north, and that of *Liney* a quarter of a mile to the north-east.

Adjoining to this village, on a spot called *Penny Pound*, General Fairfax drew up his army after the battle of Langport. Here also the Duke of Monmouth engaged the king's forces, under the Earl of Feversham, and was defeated, with the loss of many prisoners. The conduct of the Earl to one of the prisoners was not unworthy of the merciless cruelties of his coadjutors, Kirke and Jefferies, some of which we have mentioned in our general view of the county. This transaction is thus recorded in Mr. Locke's *History of the Western Rebellion*. "This person, who was remarkably swift of foot, was prevailed upon, on condition of being pardoned, to entertain the general with an instance of his agility. Accordingly having stripped himself naked, a halter was put round his neck, and the opposite end of it was fastened to the neck of a horse. They

* Gen. Biog. Dict.

They started at a place called *Bussex Rhine*, and ran from hence to *Brintsfeld Bridge*, a distance somewhat exceeding half a mile; and though the horse went at full speed, the man kept pace with him the whole way. But notwithstanding this exertion of his ability, and the terms of his agreement, the inhuman general ordered him to be hanged with the rest."

The church is a large building, in the form of a cross, and dedicated to St. Mary. Its divisions are a nave, chancel, north and south transepts, and north and south side aisles. A stately tower, embellished with Gothic pinnacles, and other elegant ornaments, rises at the west end. The height of this tower is one hundred and five feet; and from the advantages of situation can be seen at a vast distance.

East Brent is situated in the hundred of Brent, which lies on the shores of the Bristol Channel. The property of this parish was bestowed on the abbey of Glastonbury by Ina, of monastic celebrity. At the dissolution of monasteries, the king granted it to the Duke of Somerset; but it soon after came into the possession of the city of London, and was sold to the family of Whitmore.

Some have supposed this parish to have received the latter part of its name from the word *brent*, burnt, as having suffered much from the flames during the invasions of the Danes. This opinion, however, as far as regards the Danes, is incorrect, as we find it under the same appellation in the annals of Glastonbury, long before that people visited this coast.* In signification, however, the derivation may be just, as this spot was undoubtedly the scene of military transactions several centuries previous to that period. Antiquities, as well as history, support this conviction. On the top of Brent-Knoll, a curious conical eminence, which rises nearly one thousand feet above the level of the sea, there are the remains of a large double irregular entrenchment, in which a number of Roman coins and weapons

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* Collinson, I. 195. Gibbon's Discourse of Antiquities found near Conquest. Langtoft's Chronicle.

of war have been discovered. The West Saxons seem to have made use of this fortress in their Mercian wars, being important, not only for defence, but likewise as an alarm post, from the extensive view it commands. Alfred is also said to have defended himself here, at one period, against the Danes. *Battleborough*, a small village to the south of the hill, preserves in its name the memory of some notable action.

The village of *East Brent* lies on the great road from Bristol to Bridgewater. Here was anciently a noble mansion house, built by Abbot Selwood. It was demolished in the year 1708, and all the materials of it sold. This building had much the appearance of an abbey, both in exterior and internal structure, and indeed the common people firmly believe that it was so.

This idea, however, is without foundation, though it is undoubtedly true, that many figures of monks were deposited in that part of the edifice which answered to the cloisters of a monastery. Mr. Strachey, in his list of religious houses, informs us, that he saw some of them lying in the churchyard, and many more were purchased by Dr. Westover, as ornaments for his gardens.*

The church of East Brent is a handsome building, dedicated to St. Mary, and beautifully situated on a gentle eminence. The divisions of it are a nave, chancel, and north and south aisles, all covered with lead. The tower at the west end is of a quadrangular form, and embattled. The height of the tower, to the ballustrade; is eighty feet. From hence to the top of the spire, which rests upon it, sixty. The lower part of the former is ornamented with three niches, placed one above the other. The highest contains the effigy of a king, with a sceptre and mound. Another figure is in the act of embracing him. The middle niche receives the statue of a queen; and in the lowest we discover a third male figure, also in royal robes, and holding in his hands the ensigns of majesty.

Several of the church windows exhibit fine specimens of painting

* Hemingford's Chron. 657.

painting on glass. On one of them is the Salutation, the Nativity of our Saviour, and the Wise Men offering Presents; on another the Virgin Mary and her Son. A third represents the Scourging; a fourth the Imprisonment and Decollation of St. John the Baptist; and the others, figures of St. John the Evangelist and St. James. Two stone effigies of monks, at full length, lie in separate windows in the aisle. There are no monuments here deserving of notice.

South Brent, as the name imports, lies to the south of the preceding parish. The lands here are marshy, but rich and well drained. They are particularly favourable for pasture.

The property of the manor belonged to the abbots of Glastonbury. Here it would appear they and their brethren were often wont to regale themselves, particularly at the time of the Christmas festival. To prove that they lived luxuriously, it is only necessary to mention, that twelve tenements were held in this neighbourhood by the service of drawing their wine. At the dissolution this manor became the property of the Duke of Somerset; and after his attainder passed through different families, till at last it was parcelled out to the tenants.*

The church, which is dedicated to St. Michael, stands upon rising ground, and consists of a nave, chancel, north aisle, and vestry-room. A handsome embattled tower, eighty feet in height, adorns the west end.

Some of the old benches in this church exhibit a variety of curious grotesque carvings. One is a fox hanged by geese, with two young ones yelping at the bottom. The second a monkey at prayers, having below another of his own species, holding a halberd, and an owl perched on a branch over his head. A third represents a fox, habited as a canon, with a crosier in his hand, and a mitre on his head. Above appears the figure of a young fox chained, with a bag of money in his right paw. He is surrounded by geese, cranes, and other fowls, all of them chattering at him. Below is another young fox, turning
a boar

a boar on a spit, and on the right a monkey, with a pair of bellows, puffing the fire. The explanation of these pieces we leave to the reader. The prototypes of them are not difficult of discovery.

The north side of the aisle contains a sumptuous mural monument, in memory of a person of the name of Somerset, who died in 1663. The large figures upon this tomb are those of a gentleman and two ladies, attired according to the fashion in the reign of Charles the First. At their feet are four children, three of them kneeling, and one a babe in swaddling clothes. The inscription is in verse, but unworthy of quotation.

AXBRIDGE

is an ancient borough and market-town, situated in a parish of the same name. The latter is separated from Over-Weare by the river Ax, which, running beneath a wooden bridge, supported by stone piers, part of a more ancient fabric, gave rise to the appellation, Axbridge.

This town is a borough by prescription, and one of the most ancient in England. Previous to the conquest it had thirty-two burgesses, who paid "ten shillings for the third penny of the county."* The government of it was then committed to a portreve and assistant; but after the reign of Henry the Second it was incorporated by the name of the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses. During the reigns of the three first Edwards it sent members to parliament; after which the burgesses petitioned to be excused from sending any in future, pleading poverty as the cause.†

The town of Axbridge principally consists of one street, about half a mile in length, and running in a winding direction from east to west. The market-house and shambles are towards the east end. The market is held on Saturday, and affords a plentiful

* Collinson, III. 560. † Ibid.

plentiful supply of corn, sheep, and pigs. Knit hose is the chief, or rather the only manufacture. Here was formerly a hunting chace belonging to the kings of England.

The church of Axbridge stands on an eminence, at a short distance from the present market-house. It is a large handsome structure, in the Gothic style, and built in the form of a cross. It contains a nave, chancel, north and south transept, north and south aisles, and two chapels, one on each side of the chancel. At the west end rises a very fine tower, adorned with two statues in niches. One of them is the figure of a king bearing a sceptre, and the other that of a prelate in his pontifical robes. The communion-table is covered with an elegant and very curious cloth, wrought in silk by Mrs. Abigail Prowse, who employed seven years in completing it.

In the chapel of the north aisle is a grand stone monument, with an oval recess in the middle, containing the half length figure of a man in a loose black robe. It is in memory of William Prowse, Esq. Mrs. Abigail Prowse, and several other members of that family, have monuments in this church.

Cheddar lies about two miles to the south-east of Axbridge, at the foot of the Mendip. It is situated in a parish of the same name, which extends from the middle summit of the hills, a considerable way into the moors. The soil and surface are as various as can well be imagined. The lofty Mendip raises his rugged brow on the one hand, and forms a fine contrast with the rich extensive level on the other. The slopes of the hills are every where diversified. Here immense caverns, enormous chasms, and bold protuberances, are mixed together in awful variety. Nothing, indeed, can exceed the grandeur of the scenery which this parish displays. The chasm, called *Cheddar Cliffs*, is certainly the most striking object of its kind in England. Our readers will find it described in a former part of this work.

Nine small springs issue from the foot of these cliffs, on the side nearest to Cheddar, all within thirty feet of each other, which

which join together about forty yards from their source, and form a broad rapid stream, of the "clearest and finest water in the world." This river abounds with trout, and about thirty years ago turned thirteen mills within half a mile of its rise. From this stream Cheddar derived its name, being a compound of *Ced* and *Dar*, the former signifying a lofty eminence, and the latter water, in allusion to its situation at the foot of lofty rocks, washed by a copious river.*

The town itself stands on the slope of the Mendip, and consequently somewhat about the level of the moors. It had formerly a considerable market, which has been discontinued for more than a century. The market cross, which is of a hexagonal shape, is still standing, and in good preservation. A paper manufactory is established here; and many of the poor are employed in spinning, and knitting hose. Cheddar has long been celebrated for its cheese, which is indeed equal to any in England, and by many considered as no ways inferior to the celebrated Parmesan. This advantage arises from the rich pasturage of the adjacent moors.

The church is a large handsome building, dedicated to St. Andrew, and consisting of a nave, chancel, north and south aisles, with a small chapel in the south aisle. The tower is a very fine one. It rises to the height of one hundred feet, and is embellished with handsome Gothic pinnacles.

The windows of this church are ornamented with many coats of arms painted on the glass. Under an arch, in the chancel, and seemingly coeval with the wall, is the engraved portraiture, in brass, of Sir Robert de Chedder, in armour, trampling on a lion. Adjoining to this is the portraiture of a female, also in brass.

The north aisle contains a monument distinguished for its unaffected simplicity. It is a plain stone, with this epitaph:—

"This is Mary Hixes' grave."

WRINGTON

* Collinson, III. 573.

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